



NICE PLANTS in the beds of Reuben Martin, Ephrata RD 3. L. F. Photo

● **Tobacco**

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hold the heat, but on the hot days at the end of April he burned out some of the plants. He says you definitely need to have holes in the plastic to leave in air and water.

On the trip over to Frysedale road where Martin's farm is located a variety of early morning farm work was being started. A

farmer on a steel-wheeled tractor was harrowing, a man and his wife were hitching up the team, a farmer's wife was hoeing the garden, and a little fellow on a big tractor was headed to the field with the corn plants.

The trip gave a good cross-section of what county farms were doing this week and to add to the scene a little bunny ran into the wheat field.

● **Local Meat**

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thought the other 15 percent could easily be brought under federal inspection but they didn't realize that these were the small producers going to market or retailing their own meat."

The state inspection law as passed July 9, 1968, exempts before and after killing inspection for producers not ordinarily buying or exchanging animals and the custom slaughtering business. "We consider a man who has finished the cattle as producers," Zacherle said. This allows farmers to raise and sell meat retail.

But it was not known if the federal people will interpret their law in the same way. How-

ever, anyone producing a clean wholesome product should be able to meet the inspection requirements," Zacherle said. Listed were some individual requirements such as a clean water supply, drains properly placed, floors water-proofed, walls properly cleanable, ceiling tight, doors wide enough so product don't brush sides, proper lighting, and refrigeration.

Zacherle said there has been no change in dressing game animals. "There is no objection to dressing deer," he said.

Louis Moore, PSU Livestock Specialist, also spoke to the local group saying he thought the hardships brought about by the meat inspection laws in Pennsylvania would be greater than for other states because we have

more plants. "We had 1500 plants in Pa. when the law went into effect with only a small percent of them large enough to be federally inspected whereas in many other states most of the product was going through inspected plants," he said. Moore estimated Pa has lost about 30% plants since the law went into effect.

"It may not be as severe in the future as it appeared," he said. "Though it may reduce competition in the fed cattle markets. However, I don't see a reduction in livestock slaughter in Pa."

Also on the program sponsored by the Ag Extension office was Laurence Yoger, Area Marketing Extension Agent who discussed the impact of the new law on consumers.

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