

Pa. Broiler Placements About The Same

Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending August 2 were 852,000. The placements were slightly below the same week a year earlier and 9% below the previous week. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 11% above a year earlier. Settings for broiler chicks were 1,940,000 — 12% above the previous week and 21% above the comparable period a year earlier. The current 3-week total of eggs set is 11% above the same period a year ago. Inshipments of broiler-type chicks during the past 10 weeks averaged 18,900 — 28% lower than the comparable period a year ago. Outshipments averaged 312,000 during the past 10 weeks, 7% higher than a year earlier.

22 States:

Placements in the 22 States were 53,986,000 — 3% below the previous week and 5% above the same week a year earlier. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 7% above a year ago. Settings were 69,489,000 —

Alfalfa Weevil Attacked

There will be fewer alfalfa weevils throughout the state of Maryland this year thanks to newly discovered wasp parasites. The parasites were released and recovered in alfalfa plots by entomologists from the University of Maryland, the Maryland Experiment Station and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Released from cages at the alfalfa plot, the adult wasp parasites find and attack the alfalfa weevils. There are three species known to be established in Maryland. One of these deposits eggs on weevil larvae in the spring; another wasp attacks the larvae in the summer; and a third species appears to fight weevil larvae at various times during the alfalfa season.

The third species is a native North American wasp which also parasitizes other beetles. The female wasp lays an egg in the

1% below the previous week and 6% above a year earlier. The current 3-week total of eggs set is 6% above the comparable period a year ago.

alfalfa weevil larva. The egg hatches and feeds internally on body tissues eventually killing the larva.

Several species of parasites of the weevil have been introduced into North America by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. John W. Neal, Jr. of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station has worked cooperatively with USDA entomologists in research on the parasites and has been releasing some of the European parasites which were reared in laboratories at College Park.

"We are hopeful that the species which we have been studying intensively will find a happy home among Maryland alfalfa weevils," says Dr. William E. Bickley, head of the Department of Entomology of the University of Maryland. "This species attack adult weevils."

Surveys have shown that parasites are present in the major alfalfa growing regions of the state. It is believed that they have been partly responsible for the fact that many growers could reduce the amount of spraying in 1969.

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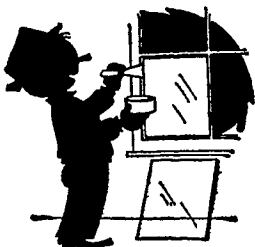
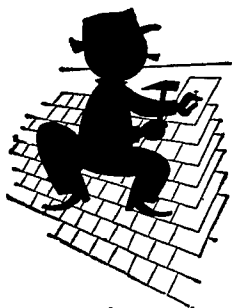
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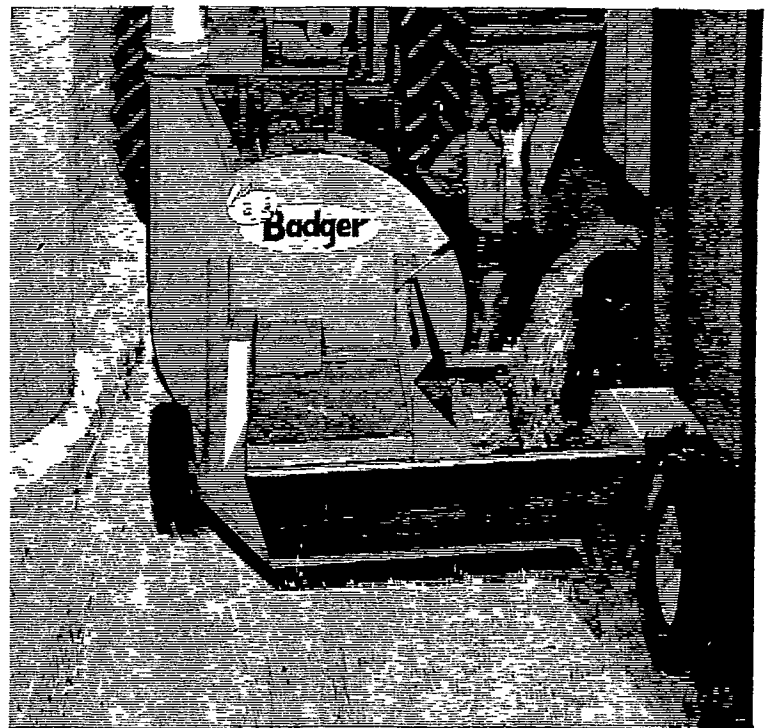
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