

## Local Egg Man Concerned About Market, Sees Hope

Despite the gloomy egg market picture which the egg type chick hatch projects, Tom Smith of L. M. Sheaffer, Ephrata, terms the overall situation at this time "awful mudd." While the layers hatched in January should be coming on the market this month, Smith said the actual situation shows "nothing good" available anywhere in the county in 20 to 22 week old pullets, the ready to lay age.

He attributes this lack of new layers to a high incidence of Marek's disease, while 10 to 12 week old pullets now are plentiful and of good quality, he noted that it's normally another six weeks before Marek's will begin to take its toll on these birds. "Many of the pullets now available are so full of disease nobody wants them," Smith said.

But Smith conceded that if these later birds do come into production without significant reduction in numbers through some means, such as Marek's it could put major downward pressure on the egg market in July and August.

He also noted a heavy incidence of moulting in some areas and continuation of the trend toward record egg type chick hatch in many parts of the country in May.

On the other hand, the futures market for eggs has been

strong in the past 10 days and "breakers are looking for eggs," both favorable signs. Breaking stock is reported low, lower than a year ago.

Overall, Smith sees a steady market which actually may go higher in the next few weeks, but with the market beyond that point highly uncertain.

Under prices prevailing this week, Smith says the more efficient operators are making a profit; the large egg market is actually a little higher than a year ago. But medium and small egg prices are considerably lower than a year ago and operators with eggs in these categories are losing money, he said.

### Guernsey Sales

The Pennsylvania Golden Guernsey News June edition reports the following sales which may be of interest to local dairymen:

June 25—12 30 p.m., 273rd Special Sale, Lancaster Sales Pavilion

July 16 — 12 30 p.m., Bus Brook Farms Guernsey Dispersal, Leroy G. Blouch, Jonestown, owner, at the Association Sales Pavilion, Lancaster, managed by the P.G.B.A.

July 23—12 30 p.m., Forest Preston II, Oxford, Pa., Guernsey Dispersal, at the Association Sales Pavilion, Lancaster, managed by the P.G.B.A.

July 25 — 11 00 a.m., Lake Louise Farm Dispersal, Raymond Goeringer, owner, Dallas, Pa., at

## UEP Adopts Program Monday In Atlanta To Hit Egg Bust

(Continued from Page 1)

should take steps to make sure they are slaughtered instead of re-sold for force-molting elsewhere.

Regional Cooperative members of UEP have pledged full support in informing their member producers about the program.

In a separate booklet "Action

### Wet Weather Stalling Tobacco; Crops Growing

Lancaster County tobacco planting is still running behind schedule and is only one-half to two-thirds finished.

But one week of good, dry weather and "we'll be back on schedule" according to Max Smith, Lancaster County agricultural agent. Tobacco planting is normally completed by July 4.

Smith said the unplanted tobacco plants have been growing rapidly and are "really too big." But the tobacco looks good that has been planted, Smith said.

In fact, "the corn crop looks very good at this point — although dry weather can still hurt you. The growing season has been very favorable to agriculture."

The first cut of hay and alfalfa have been made and the second crop is "coming along rapidly," he said.

the farm managed jointly by the P.G.B.A. and the Merryman Co., Sparks, Md.

Now," the UEP projects that total industry profit and losses for the next 18 months, if no action is taken, will be \$513,000,000 versus a profit of \$342,000,000 if the guidelines are followed.

It is also noted that the UEP cost projection of 28 cents per dozen is broken down as follows: 14 cents for feed, 4.75 cents for labor and contract; 25 cents for medication; 12 cent for sanitation, 6.5 cents for bird amortization, and 2.38 cents for overhead, interest and miscellaneous.

Assumptions on which the UEP projections rest include: a U.S. population of 200 million and a growth rate of 1½ per cent annually; the cost of 28 cents FOB farms; a continued drop in per capita egg consumption at best offset by population growth, leaving no significant change in demand; a decrease of five per cent in egg production should produce a 20 per cent increase in egg prices, or a four to one ratio between production and price.

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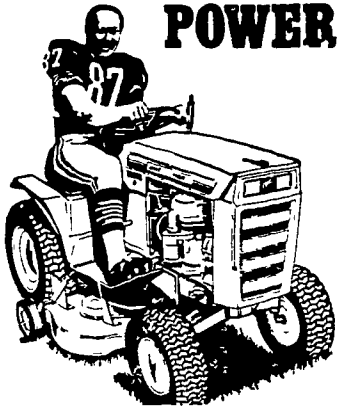
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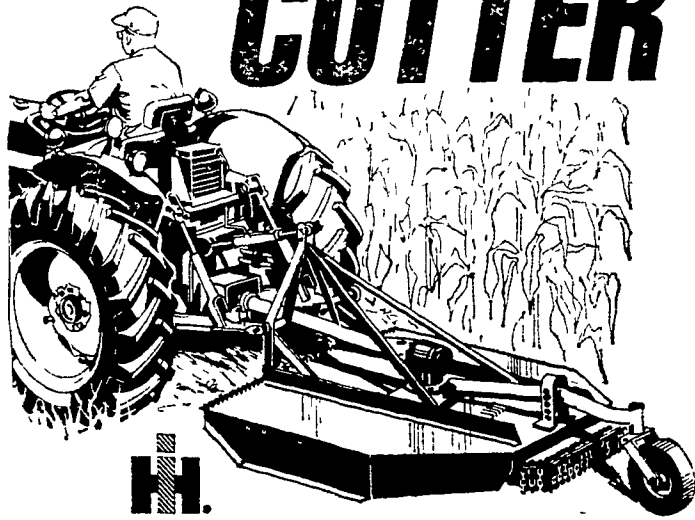
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