

Across the Editor's Desk

Grapes—Mechanical Labor

With some recent interest shown in developing a grape industry in Southeastern Pennsylvania, the following article from a recent issue of Northeast Agriculture may have local interest.

Cesar Chavez doesn't draw much water in the grape belt of the Great Lakes region. He is the fellow who has been trying to organize the farm workers who pick grapes in California, and the one who has led the agitation for the grape boycott.

Just about every grape in the Great Lakes area will be picked by machine this year, and so if Chavez shows up there he'll have to talk to himself, there will be no migrant grape pickers there to organize.

They do use some hand labor though. Trimming and pruning are still done by hand, and it takes hand labor to tie the vines to the trellis. But practically all

of this work is done now by local labor. A lot of growers do their own pruning through the winter months, and a great many of them are finding their best help in the urban and suburban homes of the area.

"Local housewives are the best help I can find," says John Moorhead of Northeast, Pennsylvania. Some of them take their children to the fields with them, they get some exercise, some sunshine, and some extra income. They seem to like it and so do the growers.

There is talk in the area of a machine that will do the pruning and trimming, but it hasn't yet been developed. It will be though, says Dr. Haesler, of the Penn State Extension Service.

How long it will take for total mechanization of the grape industry is a matter for speculation.

● New Holland

(Continued from Page 2)

weights 24-26 Wholesale 26 25-27, Sows 18 50 21, Boars 17-18.

CALVES

June 29, 1970

Receipts of 109 Calves sold \$2.00 higher Choice and Prime 50 56 Good and Low Choice 44-50, Standard 38 44, Common 22-36

HAY

June 29, 1970

Nine loads of hay and straw sold as follows Mixed Hay 29-46; Straw 27 50-32

but no one seems to doubt that it's on the way.

Table grapes such as they grow in California, present a different problem than grapes grown for processing. Nearly all processed grapes in the country will be harvested by machine this year. Because table grapes dare not be bruised, harvesting by machine can't be done not yet, at least.

But there is little doubt that Chavez has speeded up mechanization where it is practical. Many farmers and close observers predict the labor leader will work himself and others out of a job in California, just as he has in the Great Lakes region.

Bust, Faster Recovery

From the June Poultry Tribune. Commenting on the probable egg situation for late 1970 and early 1971 Joseph G. Hadley, California egg producer, processor and marketer says, "I don't think there's any doubt that we are going to see a bust in egg prices."

"I believe, however, we will recover from this bust much faster than a lot of people might think we will because decision making is getting into fewer hands."

"Producers are getting more and more sophisticated in that they are being kept much more informed about current industry problems."

Seven Youths Complete Farm Safety Instruction

Seven Ephrata High School youths have completed the tractor and farm machinery safety course which enables them to comply with federal farm safety requirements and work in certain hazardous farm jobs.

The course for youths under 16 was completed by the following: Daniel Harting, Denver RD2, Barry Burkholder, Ephrata RD1, Galen Martin, Lutz RD4, Barry Wissler, Ephrata RD1, Leonard Martin, Stevens RD1, Kirk Copenhaver, Denver RD1 and Donald Bollinger, Denver RD2.

The course was divided into three areas of tractor safety, farm machinery safety and safe tractor and farm machinery operation, noted Charles Ackley, vocational teacher.

Donald Bollinger received a prize of a triangular slow moving



4-H Speaking Contest

4-H News

The annual 4-H county demonstration and public speaking contest will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 8 in the basement meeting room of the Farm and Home Center.

Winners from the county competition will go to the regional contests July 15 at the Owen J. Roberts High School, Chester County.

vehicle (SMV) sign for best score in tractor driving.

All seven were awarded certificates for satisfactory completion of the safety course at the high school.

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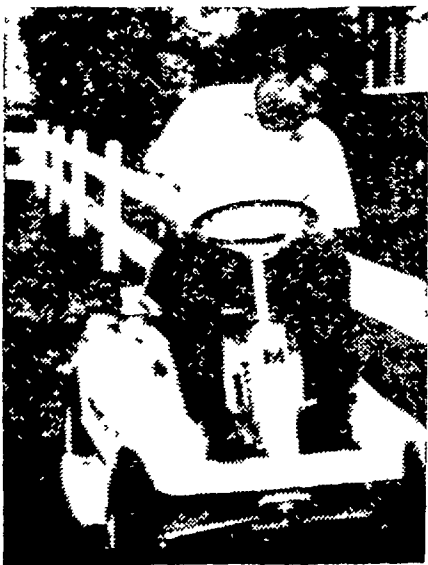
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