

# Alfalfa, Crown Vetch, Flowers Are Researched

Extensive work is underway at the Penn State research farm at Landisville on alfalfa, the primary forage crop in this area.

In particular, the effort is toward development of a crop which is resistant to anthrax, a fungus.

According to John Yocum, farm manager, it's not economical to spray for the fungus. But the fungus problem has been increasing in this area. It's not known for sure how much damage it does to the crop, he said.

It's hoped that a resistant variety can be found so that spraying will never become necessary.

#### Crown Vetch?

The farm is also experiment-

ing with crown vetch as a forage crop. Crown vetch doesn't have the disease and insect problems of alfalfa and it has wider adaptability, Yocum said.

Data so far indicates crown vetch is comparable to alfalfa, including high protein content. If the research shows that crown vetch has potential breeding could make the crop even better.

#### Flowers

The farm is also working this year with four or five beds of flowers under the direction of Dr. Richard Craig of Penn State. Dr. Craig will be testing some new varieties of bedding plants for disease resistance and growth.

Yocum said he thinks this

area has more bedding plants than any other part of the state.

The research to develop resistance has as its goal the cutting down of the need for spraying by home owners. It's believed that home owners aren't as familiar with or as careful about the use of sprays as farmers and tend to misuse and overuse them.

#### Field Corn

Work is continuing at the farm on field corn.

Herbicide tests include weed and mulch kill on no-till. Some no-till corn has been planted into alfalfa.

#### Tobacco

Tobacco work is continuing including work with herbicides, sucker control and variety test-

for possible recommendations next year.

This is the third year that the material is being used at the farm and three years is the minimum that Penn State will accept before making a recommendation.

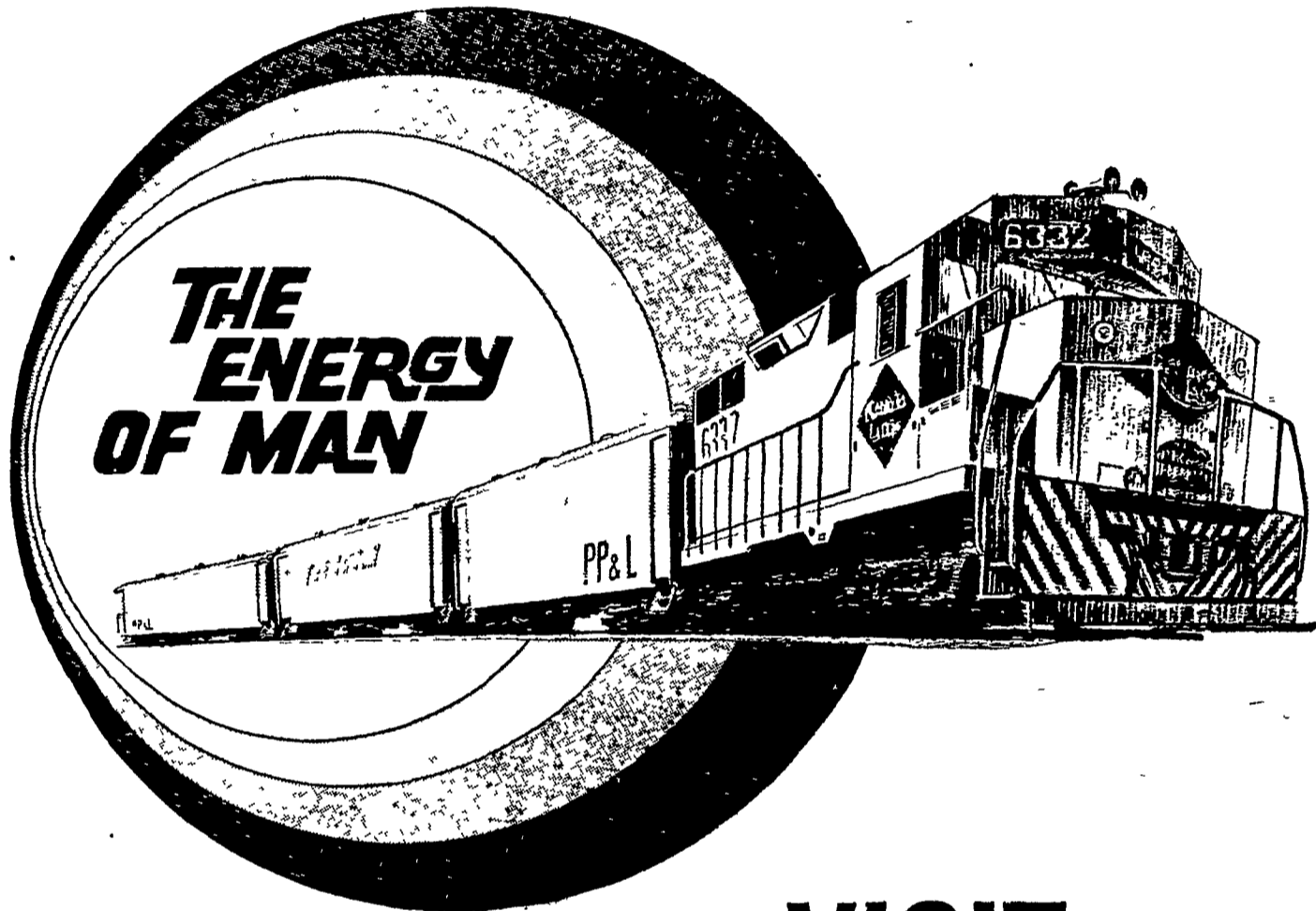
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