



At the week-long FFA conference in Washington, Fred Edwards, center, Solanco Chapter president, is greeted by Wayne Humphreys, right, of Iowa. Humphreys is

national FFA vice president of the Central Region. Looking on is Arba L. Henry, Solanco chapter advisor.

Solanco FFA Member Attends Conference

Fred Edwards, president of the Solanco FFA Chapter, recently attended a week-long national FFA training conference at the National FFA Center in Washington, D.C.

Edwards, 16, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hermon D. Edwards, Quarryville RD1. He was accompanied by Arba L. Henry, vo-ag instructor and chapter advisor.

Pork Not Graded

All pork is naturally tender so the federal government has not established consumer grades for it. Appearance can serve as an important guide to quality, says Harold E. Neigh, Penn State Extension specialist.

Choose meat that has a high proportion of lean to fat and bone. Color of the lean may range from grayish pink to red, and the flesh should be firm and fine-textured. Porous bones, pinkish in color, indicate the cut was from a young animal.

Purpose of the FFA conference program is to improve leadership skills, develop an understanding of the national heritage, and prepare FFA members for more effective roles in their chapter and community. The conference is also a forum for the exchange of FFA chapter program ideas among members from across the nation.

Besides the training sessions, the FFA program includes visits to the White House, Mt. Vernon Plantation, the National Archives, Arlington National Cemetery, and several other historic monuments and memorials in and around the Capital.

A highlight of the week's activities came on Wednesday morning when Conference participants met with Congressman Edwin Eshleman of the 16th district, Lebanon-Lancaster. Later, the FFA members discussed the Congressional

process with Congressman Vernon W. Thomson (R) of Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Cereal Anthracnose Fungus Is Found in Maryland Corn

Maryland Extension plant pathologists report discovery of wet weather-induced fungus infections in field corn by cereal anthracnose in scattered locations on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Disturbingly, the anthracnose fungus infection, *Colletotrichum graminicola*, is difficult to distinguish from the Southern corn leaf blight organism, *Helminthosporium maydis*, except by trained observers utilizing a microscope or other means of magnification.

Up to now, cereal anthracnose has rarely been found in U.S. cornfields, according to Dr. Omar D. Morgan, Southern corn leaf blight liaison officer at the University of Maryland. Traditionally, it was believed to be a wet-weather malady of small grain.

Related species of the organism are well-known scourges of garden beans, melons, sycamore trees, snapdragons, orchids and other garden, nursery or greenhouse crops.

But so little is known about effects of cereal anthracnose on corn that Dr. Morgan and his fellow plant pathologists at Maryland are not even sure whether there is a need for concern at this point.

They are already investigating possibilities that a chemi-

cal spray program may be recommended, if warranted.

Although anthracnose gives the appearance of Southern corn leaf blight, its long range effects are not expected to be especially worrisome.

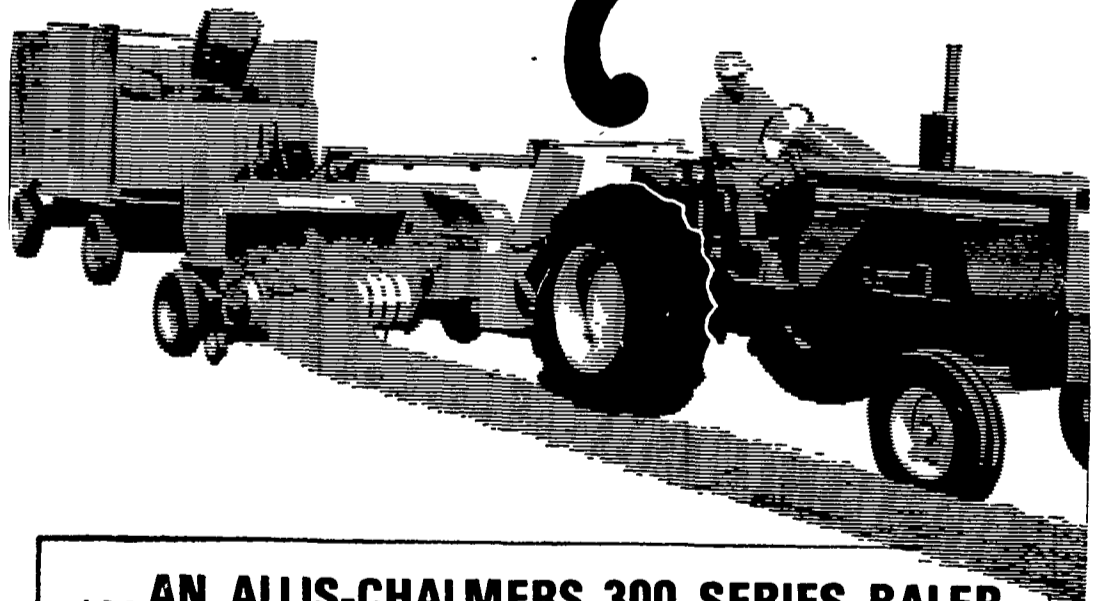
Another fungus disease is causing concern in Maryland, however, especially for growers of wheat, barley and other small grains. This is scab, or head blight, a malady which has been around for a long time.

Dr. Leslie O. Weaver, co-worker with Dr. Morgan, estimates that wheat yields in Maryland this year may be reduced one-fifth to one-fourth — with some individual losses considerably higher — because of lightweight, shriveled kernels resulting from scab-infected grain heads.

Additional concern over the scab fungus arises from the fact that it also attacks corn, causing stalk rot. Thus, corn currently being planted in newly harvested barley fields could be in real trouble, Dr. Weaver pointed out.

He cautioned Maryland farmers to also take precautions against raising corn blight spore-infested dust from chopping and grinding operations involving old crop corn, cobs or stalks.

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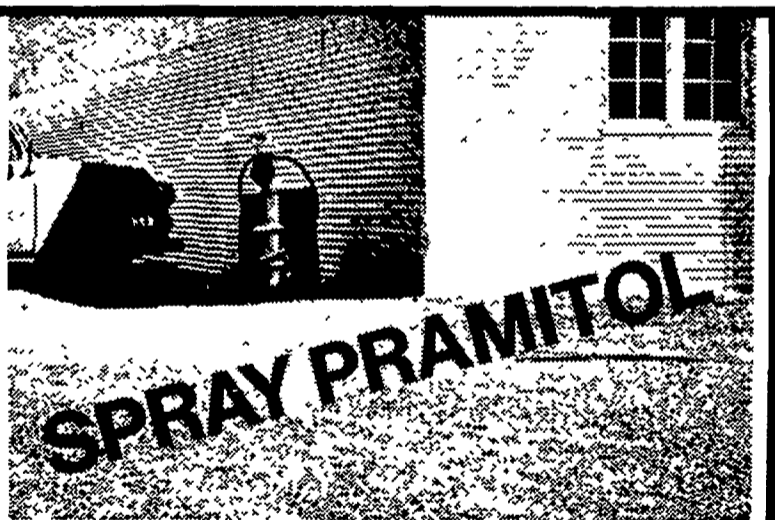
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