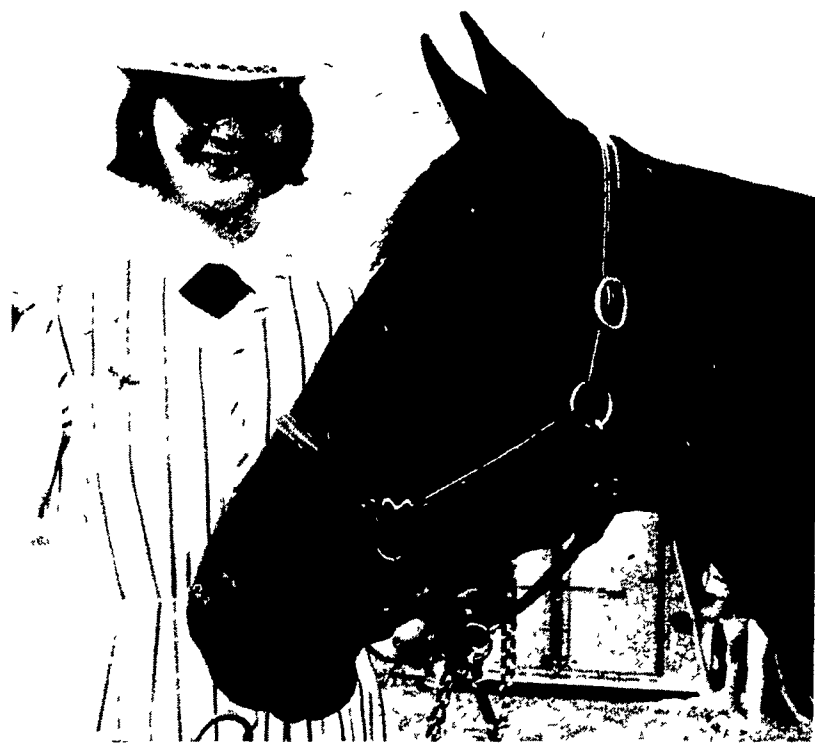


County 4-H'ers Qualify



Jane Gregory, Lititz RD1, of the Broken Bit Club, shows off her horse "Fanny." They qualified in three events: western pleasure ponies 12.2 hands to 14.0 hands, western riding horse and pole bending.

Penn State Gets Pa. Grant to Help Solve Mushroom Industry Problem

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale recently announced the approval of a three-year contract with Pennsylvania State University to design and develop a more practical system and control for composting in mushroom farming with increased production as its goal.

"If Pennsylvania mushroom farmers are to meet the growing threat of increasing foreign competition in the domestic market, new methods of mechanization are needed to increase production rates," says McHale.

The research proposal by the University's Research Administration Committee would have as its principal objective the development of a ventilation system to provide constant and automatic control of phase two composting, commonly called cookout, in conventional mushroom production. McHale said present methods of natural ventilation require tedious at-

tention by skilled operators constantly and are often upset by variable weather conditions.

"Mushroom growers tell me that unless the 'cookout' process is accomplished successfully, the growing mushroom is subjected to disease and yields decrease. The design of an automatic forced ventilation system would eliminate the influence of outside weather conditions and could be expected to provide increased yields."

Mushroom production ranks first as a source of cash income among state agricultural crops and accounts for more than 60 per cent of the nation's total mushroom output, McHale pointed out. He added, "This \$45,000,000 Pennsylvania industry faces uncertain prospects as the result of growing imports from Taiwan and Korea.

"Indications are that these two countries are planning to substantially increase their shipments of mushrooms to the United States. Mushroom farm-

ers of Pennsylvania must be given every opportunity to meet that competition," McHale declared.

"With farm income already depressed we want to prevent anything that will further affect it adversely."

Estimated cost of the three-year development project has been set at \$39,000 and will be funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Research Development Committee.

Consider Cow's Growth Rate Instead of Size?

Body measurements, visual appraisal, and weight of beef cows are of little value in predicting growth, body measurements, and carcass characteristics of offspring, a graduate assistant in animal science at Pennsylvania State University said July 13 during the North Atlantic Sectional Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science at Storrs, Conn.

On the basis of nearly three years of studies, Lawrence G. Bair of Penn State urged beef cattle producers to select cows and bulls only on mature size — which many farmers thought would improve growth rate and meat quantity and quality.

The experiments at Penn State question the assumption that large parental size will automatically increase growth rate of calves, Bair claimed. Results of this and other Penn State studies indicate that selection of herd replacements should be based on growth rate to 12 or 18 months of age rather than on mature size.



CHICKEN HOPPING JOHN

- 4 strips bacon, diced
- 12 chicken drumsticks
- 1 (7-oz.) pkg. rice and vermicelli with cheese
- 1 1/2 cups beer
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 (1-lb.) can black-eyed peas, drained

Fry bacon until crisp, remove bacon pieces and set aside. Fry drumsticks slowly in drippings until brown on all sides. Add rice-vermicelli mixture and stir until vermicelli is lightly browned. Add beer, water and cheese mixture from package. Stir to blend. Add black-eyed peas and stir again. Cover and simmer until rice is tender, about 20 minutes. Garnish with bacon strips. Makes 6 servings.



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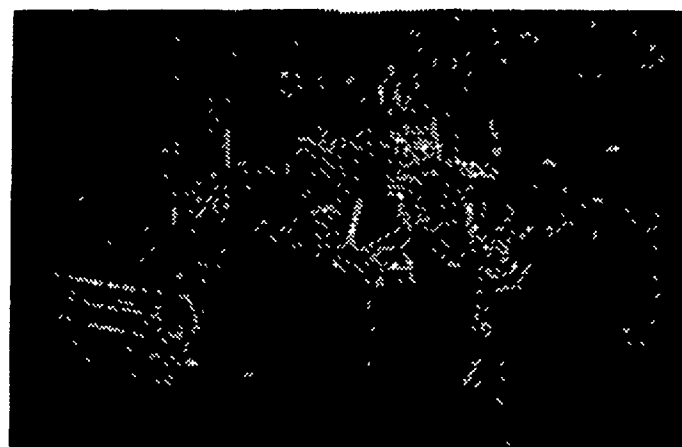
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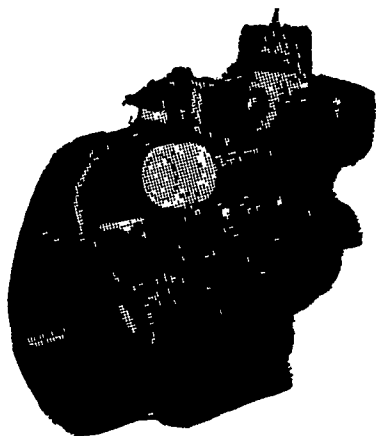
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