

Md. Begins Horse Vaccination

Maryland Animal Health Department officials, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, have approved a program of vaccination for horses against Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis (VEE), the "sleeping sickness" virus that recently caused the death of hundreds of horses in Texas.

At the same time, animal health officials announced modification of the existing quarantine to allow importation of horses from states where VEE exists, providing the horses have been vaccinated at least 14 days prior to importation. Restrictions have also been lifted on importing horses from states where VEE vaccination programs are in effect.

However, any horse coming into the state must be accompanied by an official health certificate as is required by present regulations.

The state vaccination program will be voluntary, Dr. Thomas Ladson, state veterinarian, points out, and there will be no cost to the horse owner. The USDA will supply the vaccine and reimburse practicing veterinarians for administering it.

"We are shooting for a beginning date of September 7," Dr. Ladson adds. By that time enough vaccine will be available for all the horses, ponies, mules and asses in the state. There will be a definite cut-off date for the free federal-state program. Officials hope that the vaccination program can be completed in one month.

Commercial vaccine will be available and horse owners may have veterinarians vaccinate horses at the owner's expense at any time.

"Details of the program are not yet complete," Dr. Ladson says, "But we will keep horse owners informed as the program develops."

He pointed out that while an emergency does not now exist, vaccination is an "insurance program" to protect the state's horse industry and the people of Maryland.

Recent experience in Texas has shown the vaccine to be safe and effective in controlling and containing the disease, and treated horses have shown no undesirable side effects.

Maryland is one of nine states to be involved in the USDA vaccination program; the others are Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and parts of Missouri.



"There should be just half as much horse sense behind the wheel as there is horse power under the hood."

Pomona Grange Has Picnic

Approximately 60 people attended the Lancaster County Pomona Grange picnic August 21 at Holtwood Athletic Field Park, hosted by Colerain Grange.

Gyles H. Brown, Pomona Master, conducted a brief business meeting. The Women's Activities Committee reported serving the Little Britain Alumni banquet in June.

There will be a county Grange visitation meeting at Quarryville Fire Hall at 8 p.m. September 21, with Colerain Grange as host. Salisbury Grange will present the program and Fulton Grange officers will open and close the meeting.

A committee from Lancaster County Pomona Grange will meet with Chester-Delaware and Montgomery Counties Pomona

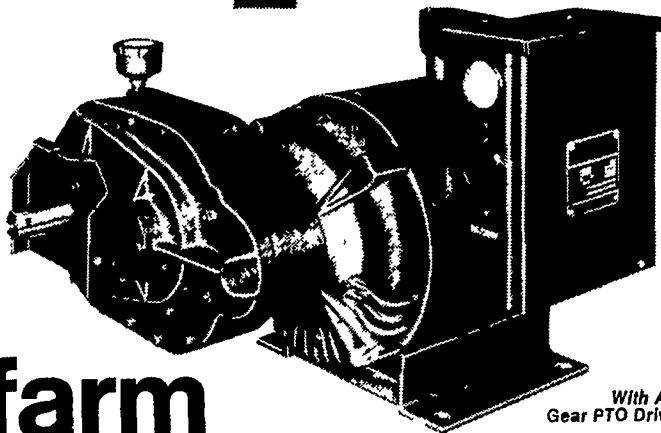
Granges September 30 to make plans to entertain the Pennsylvania State Grange in 1975.

Jesse Wood reported attending the election of trustees of Penn State University in June.

Mrs. Jesse Wood, Lecturer, presented a skit "You Can't Get There From Here" taken part in by Tommy, Joyce and Peggy Galbreath. Charles McSparran was in charge of a quoit tournament.

The next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. October 16 at Fulton Grange Hall, Oakryn, when there will be election of officers. Fifth degree will be conferred in charge of Loran Brinton, Mrs. Thomas Bradley and Mrs. Thomas Galbreath. C. G. McSparran will coach the degree team.

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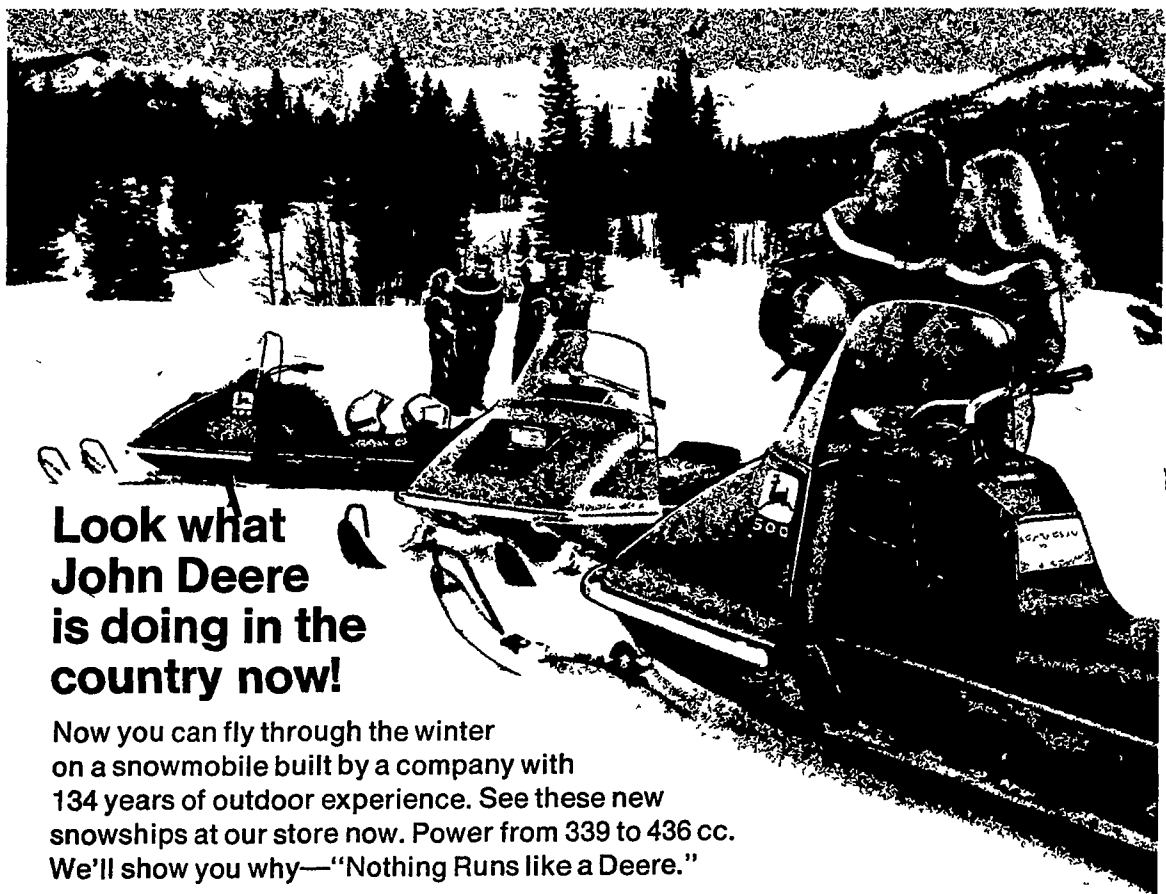
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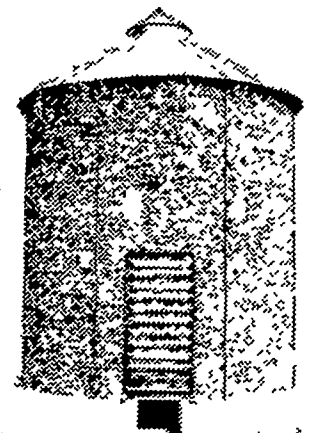
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