

# Research Project Disclosed For Organic Food Producers

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale disclosed that his department has initiated a research project aimed at protecting a growing market for organic food producers.

McHale's disclosure was made during a speech to a meeting of East Coast Organic Farmers Saturday at an experimental organic farm at Maxatawny.

The secretary said a \$29,000

contract had been signed with Pennsylvania State University for a one year project aimed at getting "a better grasp of the extent of organic farming in this state and its acceptance in the market place and at developing "a handbook of production procedures adaptable to the small farmer interested in organic farming." The project will also develop a certification program to insure that products

labeled organically grown in the marketplace are genuine.

McHale told the gathering that he has "come to recognize organic farming as a strong ally of the forces that want to see agriculture remain in the hands of the people, that want to see the family farm survive."

McHale noted that the nation's farm population of 2.9 million represents a severe decline since World War II. He said the trend toward expensive machines and fertilizers and price depressing surplus crops have made family farming economically unfeasible.

However, organic farming, with its lack of dependence on large, expensive machinery and chemical fertilizers, appears to be "an alternative system which can provide the farmer with cheaper overhead costs," said McHale.

McHale said that as consumer demand for high quality foods increases, the small organic farmer will have an enlarged market for his products.

"Therefore," said McHale, "it is natural that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, committed as it is to the survival of family farming, take an active interest in organic farming" by protecting the growing market for organic products.

## European Chafer Quarantine Dropped

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is terminating its European chafer quarantine effective Sept. 30.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) explained that control measures used against other insects also help to combat the European chafer. Therefore, it is unnecessary, in many situations, to apply a specific treatment for the chafer. In view of this information and with the need to place additional emphasis on more economically important pest problems, USDA is discontinuing the program and revoking the quarantine.

The quarantine restricted interstate movement from regulated areas of soil, plants with roots, grass sod, plant crowns and roots for propagation, used mechanized soil-moving equipment, true bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers or ornamental plants, and other items that might spread the pest.

This action removes Federal regulations from all States previously under quarantine—Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York.

The chafer is an insect pest of lawns, pastures and small grain crops. Related to the May beetle, it was probably brought into this country in the 1920's. Mature insects do very little damage, but the larvae feed on the roots of plants, causing barren spots in lawns and pastures and some damage to small grains.

## In the Kitchen

### SESAME CHICKEN BARBECUE

- 2½ to 3 lbs. chicken legs and thighs  
 ¾ cup soy sauce  
 3 tbsps. sugar  
 1 tsp. ground ginger  
 ¾ tsp. onion powder  
 ½ tsp salt  
 ¼ tsp. garlic powder  
 2 tbsps. melted butter  
 2 tbsps. toasted sesame seeds

Place chicken in a tight-fitting container or plastic bag. Mix soy sauce, sugar, ginger, onion powder, salt and garlic powder. Pour over chicken, cover and refrigerate 2 to 4 hours. Broil over hot charcoals or under preheated broiler 7 inches from heat source, 50 to 60 minutes, turning often. Brush with butter and marinade frequently during broiling. Sprinkle with sesame seeds when chicken is tender.

## Fix-It Tip

Gasoline engines should be kept properly fueled. Fill the tank before putting the mower away since condensation and gum are more likely to form in an empty tank.

A gasoline engine has a filter of some sort, usually an oil bath type. Check this and keep it clean. The filter element should be washed in kerosene and fresh oil added.

Keep a close check on the crankcase oil, making sure the oil is changed after the required number of hours of engine use, according to the manual, which accompanies every mower.

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