

Mushroom Pests Booklet

Insects were the first mushroom growers, according to an entomologist with the College of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University. Ants, for example, have practiced many of the modern techniques of mushroom growing for thousands of years, says Dr. Robert Snetsinger, professor of entomology.

Before a new queen ant takes mating flight from the nest where she was born, she takes a pellet of fungus mycelium with some of its substrate which she carries in a special pouch. After the mating flight, the queen excavates a burrow, gathers composting materials, builds a pile, plants spawn, and grows mushrooms.

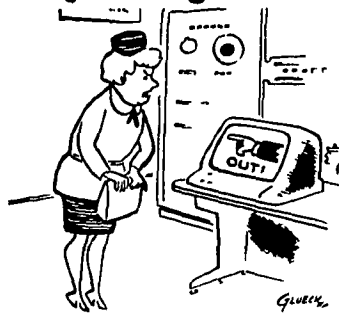
The coming of commercial mushroom production has brought the "good life" to some species of arthropods - in-

vertebrate animals with segmented legs - that once had to fend for themselves in nature. This is pointed out by Dr. Snetsinger in a new publication entitled "Biology and Recognition of Arthropod Pests of the Commercial Mushroom."

The booklet is devoted mostly to the flies and mites associated with mushroom crops. Mushroom growers, it is suggested, will find it better to look for pests than to wait until a problem is very serious and causes heavy damage.

"Biology and Recognition of Arthropod Pests of the Commercial Mushroom" is available for \$1.59, tax included, from Box 6,000, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., 16802. Make checks or money orders payable to The Pennsylvania State University.

My Neighbors



"Alright, I'll go—but next time I'll complain directly to your programmer!"

Divided into four main sections, the first part of the booklet is a key to commonly encountered animal pest problems. The next section is devoted to flies which account for about 46 percent of the insect problems in growing commercial mushrooms. The third section describes the most common families of mites associated with mushrooms. A fourth section discusses springtails, a primitive form of arthropod found in mushroom houses where the bottom beds are resting on the floor.



Gerald H. Hess, seated, was named president of the Veterinary-Nutrition Forum at the group's January meeting. Hess is vice-president for nutrition at Young's, Inc., Roaring Spring. Other Forum officers in the photo are, left to right: Dr. Richard Peacock, Pennfield Corp., program chairman; Dr. Dwight Schwartz, Penn State, outgoing president; and Dr. Vassilios J. Theodorides, Smith, Kline, and French Laboratories, secretary-treasurer.

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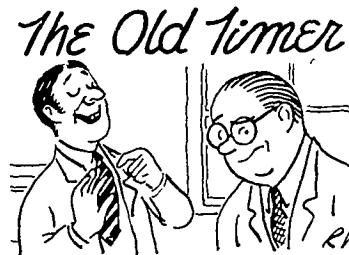
Agricultural Fraternity Honors Local Student

Peter Clair Witmer, RD1 Willow St., has been initiated into the fraternity of Alpha Zeta at the Pennsylvania State University. Alpha Zeta is a national, honorary, agricultural fraternity with the object of promoting the profession of agriculture,

leadership, and a spirit of fellowship among its members.

Peter is a Junior majoring in Animal Science in the College of Agriculture.

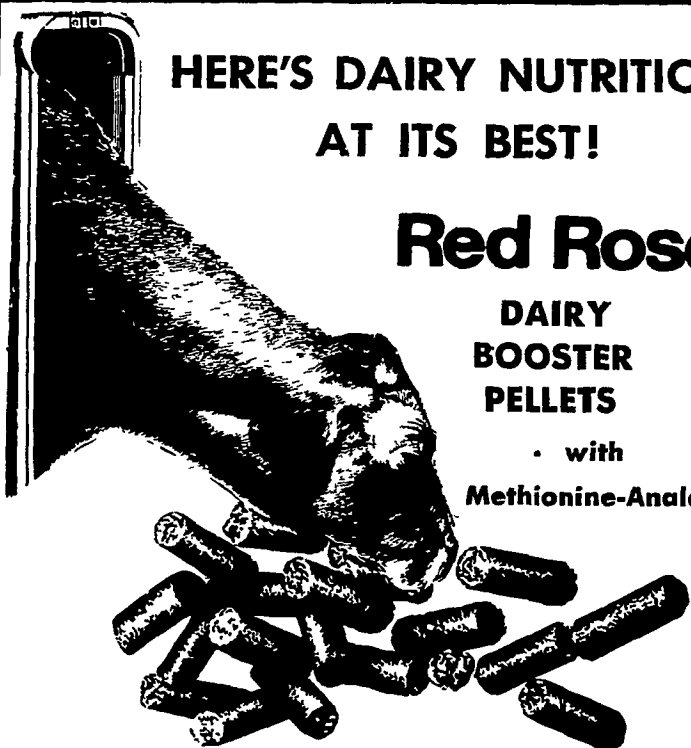
His extra-curricular activities include: the presidency of the Pa. Jr. Guernsey Breeders Assoc., vice president of the Penn State Dairy Science Club, assistant editor of the Penn State Dairyman, and member of the Penn State Dairy Judging team.



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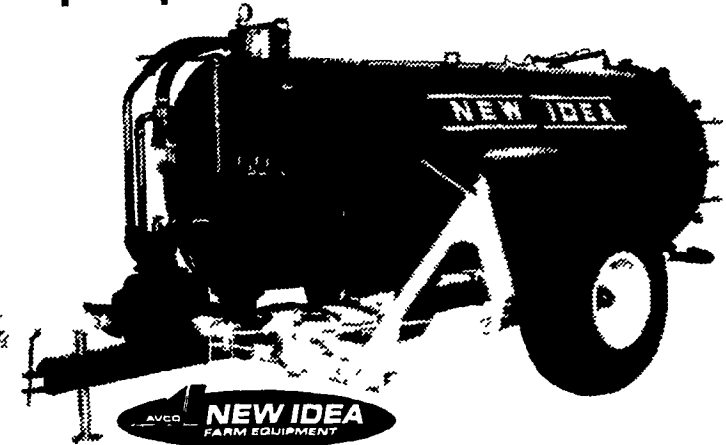
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