

### Yoder Herd Cited

Milk and butterfat production levels established by Registered Holstein cows in this area have been reported by Holstein-Friesian Association of America. All cows are from the herd of Jefferson D. Yoder, Elverson RD1, enrolled in the DHIR official testing program.

Cows recognized for their exceptional food producing ability are:

Rocky-Side Star Lida, age 4-5, 23,000 pounds milk, 961 pounds fat, 4.2 percent test in 351 days.

Rocky-Side Apollo, 7-4, 24,080 milk, 939 fat, 3.9 percent test in 305 days.

Rocky-Side Fond Hope, 5-4, 21,610 milk, 905 fat, 4.2 percent test in 305 days.

Rocky-Sida Star Lida, 4-5, 21,680 milk, 894 fat, 4.1 percent test in 305 days.

# Alfalfa Anthracnose Fungus Spreads Via Farm Machinery

The fungus causing anthracnose, a potential threat to alfalfa, can be spread from dry alfalfa debris on machinery stored in sheds over the winter, a plant pathologist at The Pennsylvania State University reported today.

Fungal spores in debris clinging to alfalfa harvesters, choppers, or balers could be a major means of spreading anthracnose to this year's crop, declared Dr. Felix L. Lukezic, associate professor of plant pathology at Penn State.

He urged farmers to clean their alfalfa harvesting equipment before moving it any distance this year. The fungus can remain alive for several months in debris on machinery in storage.

The fungus causing anthracnose can be spread, Dr. Lukezic and associates found, from equipment used in infected fields and then moved to other fields the next season. Such contamination was observed first hand last summer. Anthracnose was carried in debris on a machine used in an

infected field and then moved 100 miles away to another field where there was no anthracnose in the area.

Anthracnose is one of the most serious problems facing alfalfa growers. A few varieties have some resistance to the disease—the varieties Titan, WL3-5, and Team. Within two years, however, varieties with improved resistance should be available. At this time, spraying for anthracnose control is not recommended.

Anthracnose weakens alfalfa plants, making them subject to winter injury. Of 46 diseased plants at one variety trial location last year, only 25 plants survived the winter. Field losses from winter kill can be severe, wiping out as many as one-fourth of the plants. Damage can also be extensive among seedling plants, sometimes killing one-fourth of the young plants during the summer or fall. Protein content of alfalfa is also reduced.

The Penn Staters found that the fungus causing the disease can survive in alfalfa stems for 100 days in a field. This suggests that infected plants can be important sources of secondary infection.

If anthracnose survives the winter in fields, it does so at a very low level in the Commonwealth, Dr. Lukezic affirmed. His findings were supported in earlier experiments at Penn State and by other studies at Cornell University and the University of Maryland.

The disease usually spreads in a circle from one infected plant. The spores are carried by splashing rainfall.

## Penn. Egg Production Falls 4 pct.

Pennsylvania layers produced 301 million eggs during January according to the Crop Reporting Service. This is slightly above last month but 4 percent below January 1973.

The January average of 15.2 million layers in flocks was 1 percent above last month's average but 2 percent below January 1973. Egg production per 100 layers during January totaled 1,975 — down 1 percent from last month and 2 percent below a year ago.

Nationally, the 5,651 million eggs produced during January was down 1 percent from January 1973. Layers on hand during January averaged 295 million, 2 percent below a year earlier. The average rate of lay during the month was up 1 percent from a year earlier and partially offset the fewer layers.

### Adult Farmers Set Farm Planning Meets

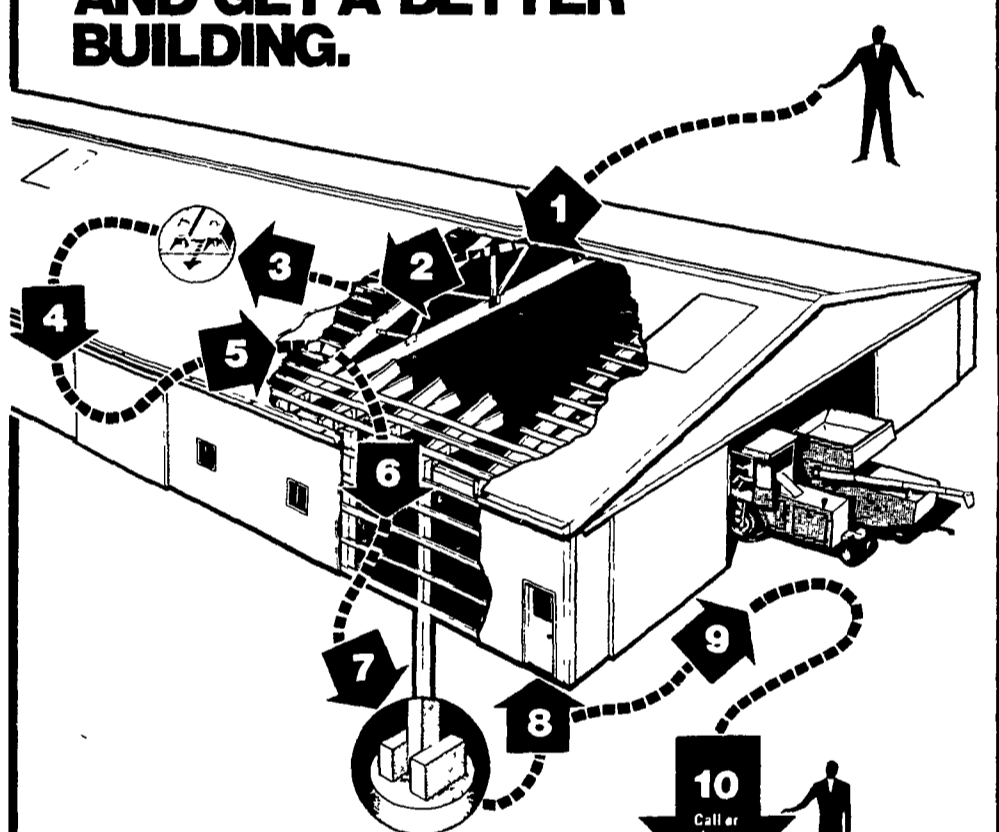
A farm buildings course will start on Tuesday evening, March 5 at 7:45 p.m. in the Ephrata Senior High School ag department. The topic to be discussed at this first session will be "Farm Building Layout and Foundation Construction."

A meeting scheduled for March 12 will feature a special session for farmers establishing a new farm plan on revising their present soil conservation plan. The purpose of this meeting is to accommodate the large number of requests for plans by area farmers who want to conform to the new soil conservation practices and pollution prevention standards established recently. Mr. Orval Bass, Lancaster County soil conservationist, will discuss this topic and do some basic planning on a group basis.

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