

Apple Growers Vote To Triple Assessment

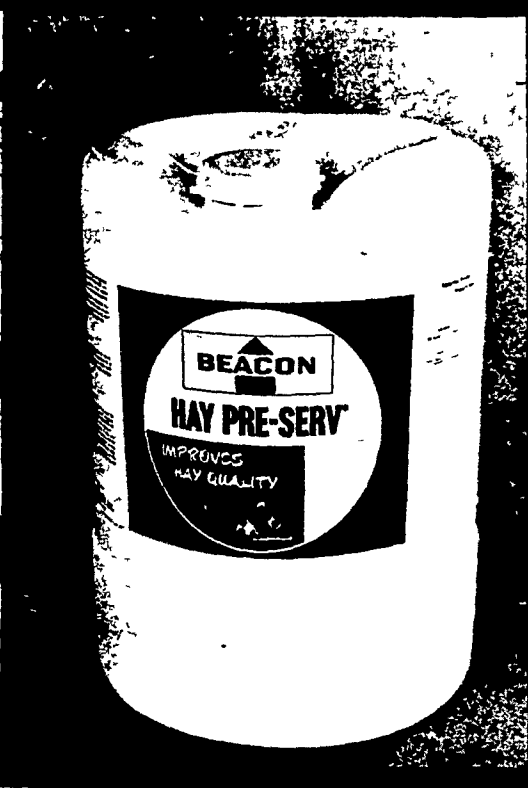
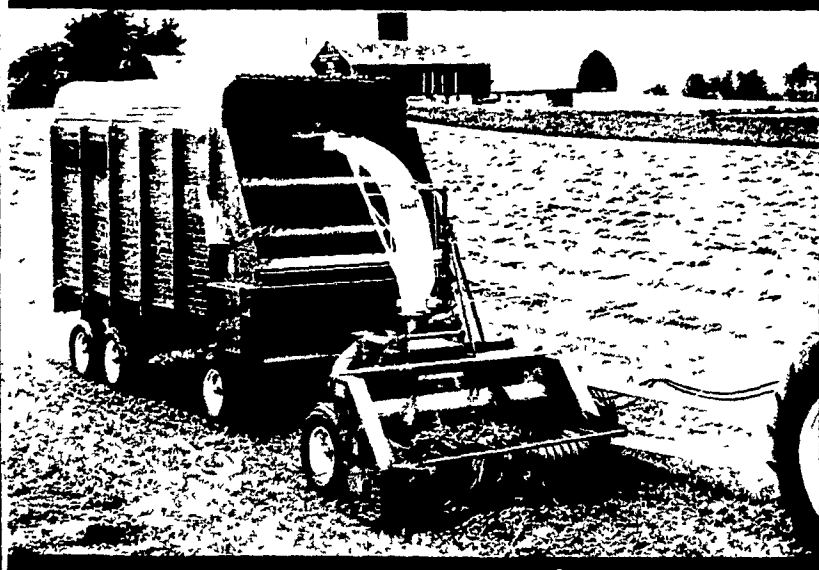
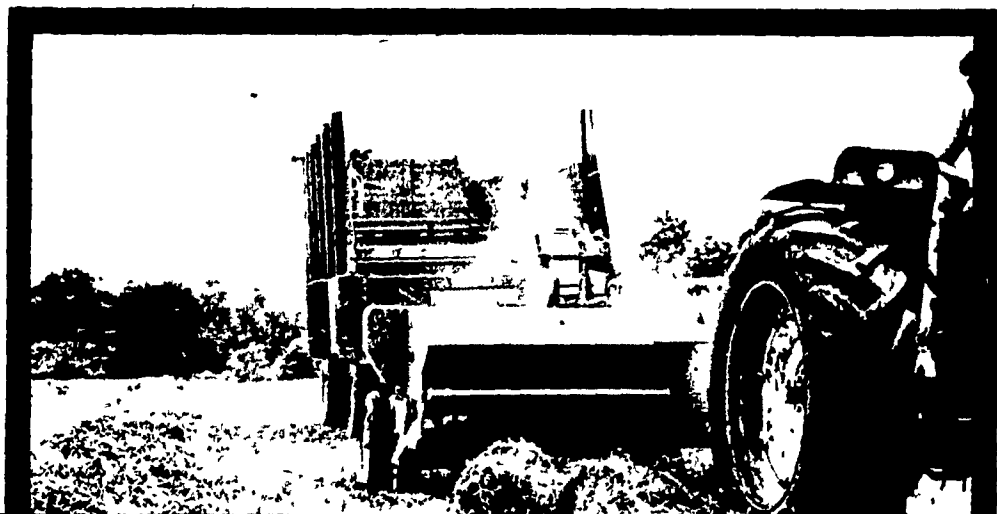
Pennsylvania apple growers have voted to triple the amount of money they assess themselves for promotional purposes, Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale said today. In announcing the results of a special referendum which ended Wednesday, May 29, Secretary McHale said 54 percent of the

growers casting ballots voted in favor of the increase. They represented 61 percent of the production volume of the those voting. As a result, state apple growers with 500 or more trees of all ages will pay into a promotional fund five cents per bushel for apples sold for the fresh market and two cents per hundredweight for apples sold for processing. "This will result in an annual budget of about \$150,000 for promotional purposes," Secretary McHale said. "The previous assessment rate brought in only about \$50,000. The growers are to be congratulated on recognizing the need for greater promotional activities in order to increase apple demand. The vote also reflects the confidence the industry has in the Apple Marketing Board, made up of growers who plan the program and spend the money." A total of 188 ballots were cast, with 92 in favor and 77 against. A total of 19 were declared ineligible. The volume of production represented by the affirmative ballots totaled 3,934,682 bushels out of a total of 6,457,850 bushels. The Teller Committee was made up of Ralph W. Tyson, Gardners; Richard H. Mattern, Hollidaysburg; and Stanley E. Brown, Loganville, all apple growers. The new assessment rate will be effective with the 1974 harvest. The old rate amounted to three cents per hundredweight for fresh apples and one cent a hundredweight for processing apples. The referendum was requested by the State Horticultural Association.



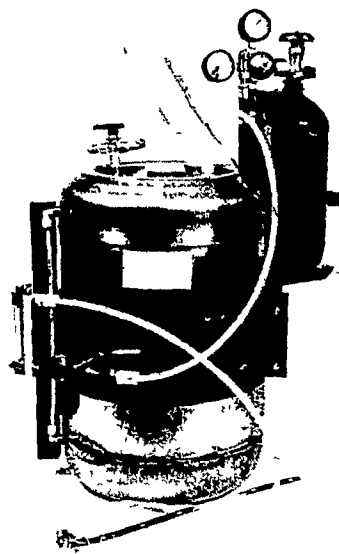
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Gypsy Moth Traps Set

Special "sex" traps will be scattered throughout the continental United States this summer to catch the destructive gypsy moth, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced.

Leo G. K. Iverson, Deputy Administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), explained that the traps will be used to detect the spread of these leaf-eating insects.

Gypsy moth caterpillars have recently hatched throughout Northeastern states. Only the leaf-eating caterpillar stage is destructive. Evergreens may die after one complete defoliation. Severe successive defoliations may kill birch, oak, and other hardwood trees.

At present, the main gypsy moth infestation covers much of the Northeast, where 1.7 million acres of woodlands were defoliated in 1973. However, since 1970, this pest has spread outside the Northeast resulting in scattered, isolated infestations as far south as North Carolina and west to Michigan.

This summer's trapping

program will use a synthetic sex attractant disparlure—to draw male moths to sticky traps. About 60,000 traps will be in place by mid-June. In September, they will be picked up and turned in to APHIS and state entomologists for identification of insects caught.

APHIS and cooperating state agencies are currently distributing the traps. Special training sessions are being held for members of the National Campers and Hikers Association (NCHA)—a national conservation - camping organization which is helping with the trapping program again this year.

"Last year was the first time we had the voluntary participation of an organization like NCHA in the federal-state trapping program," Mr. Iverson said. "Because of this assistance we were able to supplement our program and increase coverage. In fact, NCHA trapped moths in a number of areas where we didn't expect to find the pest."

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