



New Neppco (Northeastern Poultry Producers Convention) president, Dr. John W. Dodge (2nd from left) is shown here with executive director, Dick Ammon; Mrs. Hiram H. Frank, newly elected

director from North Branch, NY; and Henk Wentink, the retiring president. Election took place at Neppco's recent 43rd Annual Convention in Philadelphia.

Maryland Farms Showing Good Harvest For 1974

Maryland farms are yielding a good harvest this fall. But the mid-summer's severe drought, coupled with early October frosts have taken their toll.

The Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service, the cooperative agricultural data gathering program of USDA and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, indicates that many state corn growers are "enjoying a pleasant surprise" as their crops turn out somewhat better than had been expected.

As of October 11, the harvest was predicted to reach 39 million bushels, which is 8 percent below last year's, but up by the same figure from an earlier September forecast.

Because of weather factors, the yield per acre is now being forecast at 78

bushels, compared with 85 bushels for 1973.

With corn currently selling for about \$3.35 per bushel, the Maryland crop will have a value of approximately \$130 million. Much of Maryland's corn, however, is not sold on the market, but used for cattle and poultry feeds.

The Crop Reporting Service says the state's tobacco harvest is turning out better than had been anticipated earlier. Production is expected to reach 28,800,000 pounds, just 9 percent lower than the 1973 figure.

At last summer's auctions, Maryland's Type-32 tobacco brought a high of 91 cents per pound. So, the outlook now seems optimistic for Southern Maryland leaf growers.

One crop remaining un-

changed from last year is sweet potatoes. Production is expected to equal the 1973 figure of 294,000 hundred weight with a depressed market price.

Maryland's leading fruit crop is apples. This year's predicted production of 60 million pounds will be 9 percent behind last year's. Although the price for 1974's apples is fractionally higher than last year's, this fact will not make up for the smaller yield, which resulted from a late spring frost. Fall frost had no effect on that crop.

One Maryland field crop that apparently has done well is the ubiquitous pumpkin. While there are no statistics available on this commodity, it seems obvious that a plentiful supply is available for Halloween and Thanksgiving purposes.

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Birk To Head Dept.

Earl A. Birk has joined the staff of Pennfield Corporation to head the company's Feed Ingredient Purchasing Department. The new position was announced by Ernest O. Horn, Jr., vice president of operations. Birk will report directly to Horn.

As director of the department, Birk will be responsible for all feed ingredient and feed additive purchases for all of Pennfield's facilities. All purchasing will now be handled at Pennfield's corporate offices in Lancaster. The complexity of operating three mills made it necessary to centralize the firm's feed purchasing operation.

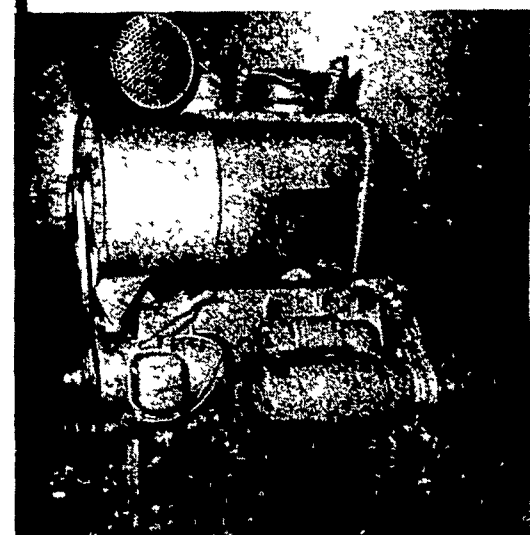
Prior to joining Pennfield, Birk was assistant pur-



Earl A. Birk

chasing agent of John W. Eshelman and Sons. Most recently, he was purchasing agent for the York office of John W. Eshelman and Sons, a division of Carnation. He is a native of Lancaster County and resides with his wife and three children in Columbia, RD1.

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