

Potatoes and Horses

(Continued from Page 1)

Chester County fields. And now his yields are consistently in the 500 to 600-bushel area.

About three years ago, Irving put his son Danny in charge of the 120-acre potato operation. Most of the spuds grown on the farm are destined for the nearby Herr's potato chip factory, although about 25 percent are grown primarily for the table market. "We grow

some for eating, but lately, the potato chip factory has been buying nearly all our output," Irving commented.

Even though the market in the upper Midwest is falling apart, Irving said he thinks this might be a good year for potatoes. "Planting intentions are supposed to be down about 25 percent," he said. "The trouble with the market this year is that everybody held onto their potatoes too long. Last year

it paid to hold onto potatoes. It really paid. A lot of people tried to outsmart the market this year, and you can't do that. I think you just have to decide when you want to sell your potatoes. If you're going to sell them over September, October and November, then that's when you should sell them every year. We always try to sell our crop right after harvest."

In addition to the potato acreage, Irving has some 150 acres in small grains, 100 acres in hay and 250 acres in pastures, buildings and a race track. Irving handles most of the responsibilities for the horse business on the farm. His other son, Donald, takes care of dealing with the race tracks both for the Irving stable and for owners who board their horses at the farm.

"Our location here is ideal for the boarding business," Irving said. "We're right in

the middle of the harness racing circuit, and only 15 miles from New Bolton Center, the University of Pennsylvania's animal research lab. We get a lot of boarders from New Bolton.

"One of our biggest income producers is the stud service. Horse breeding is a lot different from the dairy business. For one thing, we can't use artificial insemination because it's unlawful to ship horse semen off a farm."

Irving explained that horse breeders were against AI because it could produce a single superior strain of race horse that would dominate the sport. The fact that the stallions and the mares must be brought together helps to insure that there will always be an abundance of bloodlines in the sport of kings.

To become a popular stud, a horse must not only prove himself over a period of years on the track, he must also have sons and daughters with proven superior racing ability.

Irving grows the straw and

most of the hay used on the farm for horse feed. He buys western oats for feed, and has separate rations for yearlings, brood mares and race horses. Irving's "tenants" are owned by people from all over the East - Washington lawyers, New York doctors as well as local people.

Some eight to ten employees are at work on the

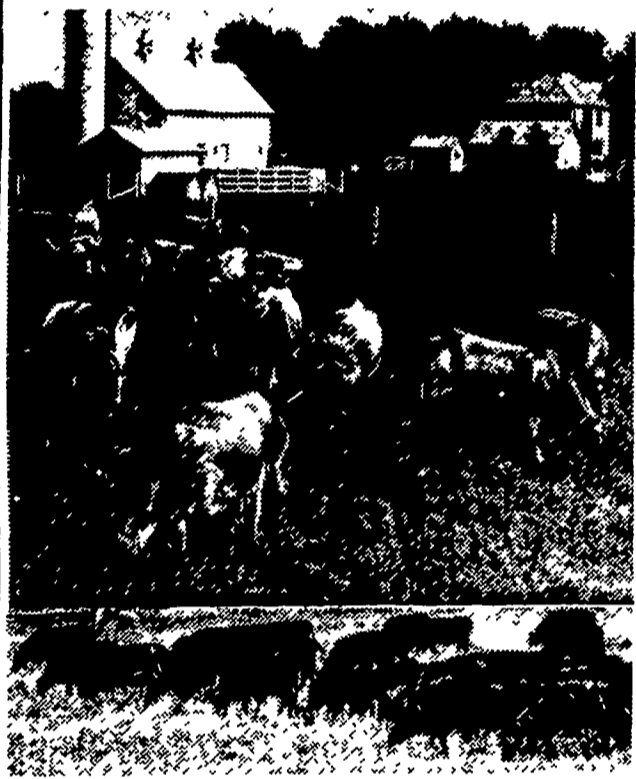
farm all the time, bolstered in the summer by several youths who are kept busy with keeping the lawns and grass in shape.

A sideline to the operation is a small herd of bred Holstein heifers. Irving buys the animals at farm auctions, has them bred artificially and then sells them just as they're ready to freshen.



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The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission formally has announced the establishment of the Office of Product Defect Identification (OPDI) to coordinate investigation and correction of possible substantial product hazards.

Commission regulations implementing Section 15 of the Consumer Product Safety Act require manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers to report potentially hazardous products to the Commission within 24 hours of discovery. Since January 6, 1975, the Commission has maintained a 24-hour-a-day seven-days-a-week, telephone number to assist companies in meeting their responsibilities under Section 15 (301-496-7631).

The Office of Product Defect Identification pursues these reports as well as information about possible substantial product hazards gathered from other sources such as consumer complaints. OPDI also coordinates activities with Commission staff to test products and confirm the presence of substantial product hazards and works with companies to develop plans for corrective action.

Since the Commission was activated on May 14, 1973, nearly 250 defect notifications have been filed, involving some 15.7 million product units. Although the Commission has the authority, after a hearing, to require corrective action, most companies have voluntarily taken steps to repair, replace or refund the purchase price of defective or hazardous products.

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