

Berks conservation tour held

By Lucy Trexler
Under the auspices of the Berks County Conservation District, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service and the DER Bureau of Forestry, Berks County sponsored its annual conservation tour.

First on the scheduled stops was the Blue Marsh Dam being built by the Army Corps of Engineers. Robert Jagard, supervisor of the project, spoke briefly of the

dam construction and eventual outlook when it is finished. The dam will be multipurpose, providing the area with flood control protection, recreation, water supply and water quality. Out of the 5500 acres bought for the dam, 1,000 will be actually covered by water. Included on this stop was a brief trip through an historical exhibit portraying the background of the Blue Marsh area.

Cannon Laboratories, Reading, was the second stop on the tour. Cannon

Laboratories' investigations span the full range of the biological and chemical sciences testing for trace elements in plant and animal tissue. Their clients include leaders in the pharmaceutical, food, agricultural, chemical, cosmetic, and toiletry industries. The tour included a trip through the various animal buildings housing pigs, rabbits, quail, chickens, ducks, dogs and monkeys, plus a complete view of all the various testing laboratories. This look at the scientific aspect of agriculture gave the tour-goers some idea of all that is

involved during the testing of various farm & home chemicals.

Before lunch at the Bernville Grange, a brief stop was made along route 183 to see the timber stand improvements work being done by the Bureau of Forestry.

Lunch was followed by a tour of three county farms. Berks County Conservation Director, Donald Duncan showed the group the manure storage area on his farm which can accommodate waste from over one hundred cows for a period of four to five months.

From there it was just a short trip over the hill to the

farm of Edwin Gelsinger. Gelsinger is running corn fertilization tests with the cooperation of the Berks County Extension Service and Conrad Weiser FFA. The corn has been fertilized with several types of organic and chemical fertilizers including sewage sludge, liquid and solid cow manure and commercial fertilizer. So far the organic fertilizers are doing quite well. A final

analysis will be made in the fall when the yield of each group can be determined.

Harold Heck was the last host for the 1975 Conservation Tour. He explained the use and advantages of his new haystacking machine and feeder.

Examples of contour farming and a diversion terrace can be seen on Heck's farm.

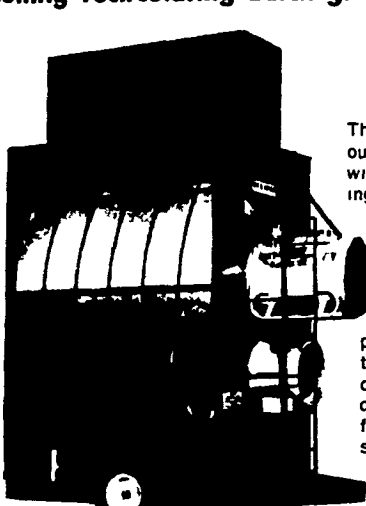
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New animal import center selected

NEW YORK — Stewart Airport near Newburgh, NY, has been selected as the site for a new animal import center for the United States, according to a joint announcement made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) of the state of New York.

The new animal import center, to be operated by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), will replace a similar facility that has been in operation at Clifton, NJ,

since 1903. APHIS Administrator F. J. Mulhern said the Clifton center has become too small to handle the large volume of animal and poultry imports coming into the United States.

APHIS proposes to build a \$5.4 million facility on the 74-acre site at Stewart Airport to handle yearly imports of some 1,800 cattle, 800 horses, 300 zoo animals and 4,000 poultry — more than triple the current capacity at Clifton. APHIS operates two smaller import centers at Miami, Fla., and Honolulu, Hawaii.

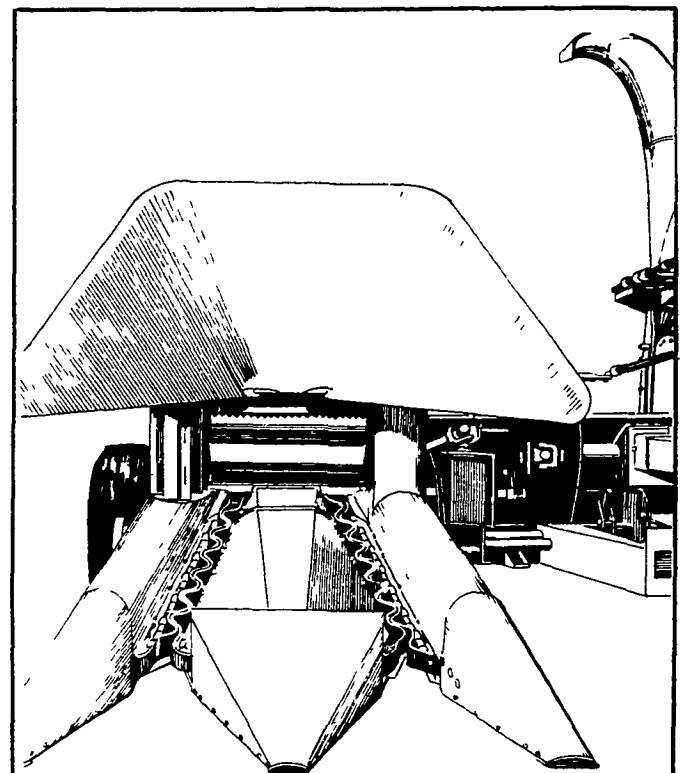
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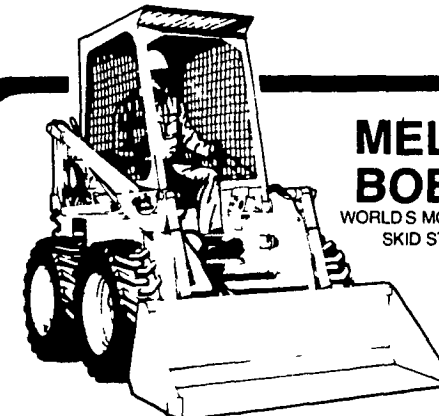
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