

Fewer varieties create great disaster potential

Genetic vulnerability studied

WASHINGTON, D.C. - New research to try to reduce the dangers to agriculture and forestry of what scientists call "genetic vulnerability" is the focus of a number of competitive grant awards just announced by the Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. R. L. Lovvorn, CSRS administrator, says the fact that so many of our major crop varieties come from fairly narrow pools of genes concerns agricultural scientists. While this uniformity makes for the most productive plants, it also can mean that a good share of any crop is susceptible to the same diseases and pests. And if a severe invasion of pests or disease takes place, there can be problems.

The CSRS grants - totaling \$625,000 - will support studies to look into the problems that could arise because of

genetic vulnerability of major crops, and to find ways to decrease dependence on such narrow gene pools through finding new genes that can be used in plant breeding work.

Grants are being made to the following universities: Illinois (\$98,000), South Carolina State (\$85,000), California-Riverside (\$100,000), Michigan State (\$100,000), Cornell-N.Y. (\$81,000), North Carolina State (\$81,000), and North Dakota State (\$80,000).

Lovvorn says these grants are part of almost \$7 million in grants being made through CSRS this year to attack problems in agriculture and forestry. In addition to the genetic vulnerability studies, CSRS is funding research in seven other areas: forage and pasture and range, beef and pork production, food and nutrition, transportation, environmental quality, pest management, and soybeans.

Canning guide available

Green shoots may just be appearing in the garden, but it's not too early to get ready for canning, freezing, and preserving the bounties of your work.

Penn State offers a comprehensive guide on food preservation which gives detailed directions for all methods of food preservation. Food preservation without spoilage spells food economy - especially when you grow or pick your own produce and preserve it yourself. Or, you may be able to buy when the price is right and can, freeze, store, dry, preserve or "pickle" your purchases.

The number of home gardeners is up; so, too, are the numbers of women

preserving foods to beat the high cost of food. This course gives recommended procedures for freezing fruits, vegetables, meats and prepared foods. Up-to-date timetables for canning using the pressure canner or boiling water bath are vital facts the home canner must know. The course is full of pointers to help make home canning easy and sure. It can be studied at your leisure or used as a handy reference guide during the food preservation season.

To obtain a copy of the course, write Canning and Freezing, Box 5000, University Park, PA. 16802. Make your check or money order for \$5.00 payable to Penn State.

Officers elected at

Twin Valley FFA chapter

The regular evening meeting of the Twin Valley Future Farmers of America was held last month with the main topic being the election of 1976-77 chapter officers. Nominations were taken and the chapter proceeded to vote. The results are as follows: President - Ted Ford; vice-president - Clarence Jennelle; secretary - Sandy Jennelle; treasurer - Dan Mosteller; reporter - Jan Oatman sentinel - Mimm; chaplain - Gerald Norris;

historian - Kathi Hart; photographer - Barry Geunes Jr.; advisor - Harvey Bitzler.

Other topics discussed were a hoagie sale, slave sale, Penn State Activities Week, land judging contest, and parliamentary procedure contest.

TRY A CLASSIFIED

Broiler report out

Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending April 24, were 1,533,000. The placements were 14 per cent above the corresponding week a year earlier, but two per cent below the previous week. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 14 per cent above a year earlier. Settings for broiler chicks were 2,559,000 - seven per cent above the previous week and 26 per cent above the comparable period a year earlier. The current three-week total of eggs set is 19 per cent more than the same period a year ago. Inshipments of broiler-type chicks during the past

10 weeks averaged zero compared with zero a year ago. Outshipments averaged 240,000 during the past 10 weeks, 9 percent below a year earlier.

Placements in the 21 States were 68,361,000 - the same as the previous week but 12 per cent more than the same week a year earlier. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were 11 per cent above a year ago. Settings were 81,625,000 - one per cent below the previous week but 11 per cent above a year earlier. The current three-week total of eggs set is 13 per cent above the comparable period a year ago.

April prices received up 11 pct. over April 1975

HARRISBURG - The April 15, 1976 Index of Prices Received by Pennsylvania farmers was one per cent below the previous month, but 11 per cent above a year earlier according to the Crop Reporting Service.

Higher prices for potatoes, apples, hogs, steers and heifers, calves, lambs, oats and barley were more than offset by the decrease in price received for corn, wheat, hay, sheep, milk cows, dairy and poultry products. The purchasing power of prices received was one percentage point below March, but five points above a year ago.

Nationally, the index of prices received increased about two per cent over the past month, and was 11 per cent above a year ago. Contributing most of the increase since mid-March were higher prices for

soybeans, potatoes, apples, hogs, steers and heifers, calves, sheep, lambs and milk cows. The purchasing power at the U.S. level increased two percentage points since mid-March and was four percentage points above a year ago.

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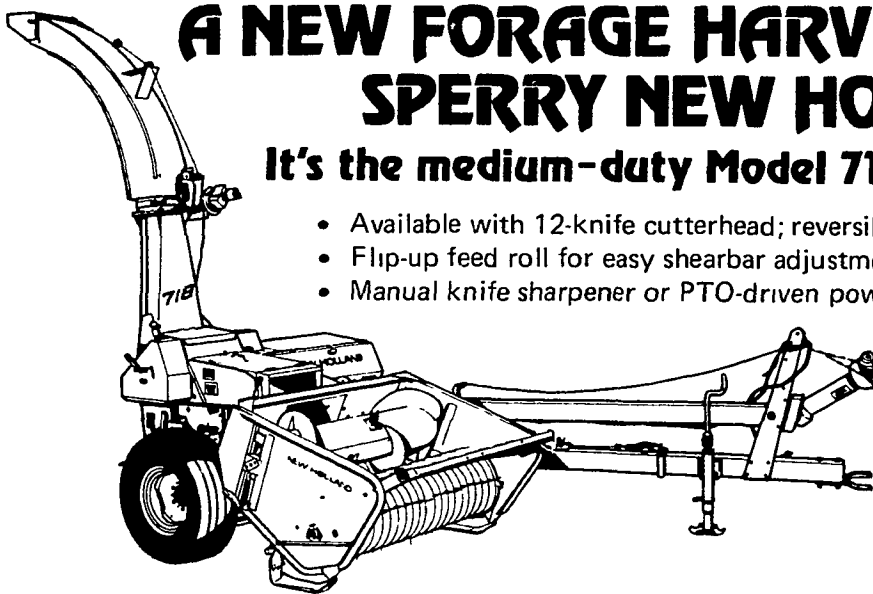
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