

# Ag research projects approved

HARRISBURG - Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer has announced the approval of eight new agricultural research projects totalling \$163,746. The approval came from the nine-member Agriculture Research Committee chaired by Secretary Shelhamer with funding from a \$400,000 allocation from horse and harness racing revenues.

Shelhamer said that the committee had approved four new projects totalling \$85,936, and had approval pending additional executive authorization for four more projects totalling \$77,810. Shelhamer noted that earlier in the year, the committee had approved 12 continuing research projects at a total cost of \$304,430.

He explained that the four

provisional projects would be funded if the governor gave his approval to spend the balance of revenues from the past year which remained in the research fund revenues.

The new projects had been discussed at the March 24 meeting of the committee and were approved at the May 12 meeting, in Harrisburg. Shelhamer said that these research projects become more valuable each year, as the need for new developments in scientific agriculture become evident as a way for farmers to meet continually rising consumer demands for high quality products.

Shelhamer said that four projects went to Penn State, three to the University of Pennsylvania and one jointly between the Pennsylvania

Department of Agriculture and Penn State.

The new agricultural research projects approved by a majority vote of the members, are:

-A study of alternatives to property taxation for financing Pennsylvania's public schools, a two-year project, Penn State, \$8,286.

-Alleviating bird damage to Pennsylvania Agriculture, a three-year study, Penn State, \$25,933.

-Calcium Nutrition of Pome fruits, a three-year study, Penn State, \$31,417.

-Bovine embryo transfer with embryo freezing or embryo sexing or both between donor and recipient, two years, University of Pennsylvania, \$20,300.

The four new projects pending approval by the governor include:

-The development and evaluation of varietal purity (Trueness-to-type) testing systems for small grains, forage and turf crops, two years, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State, \$13,855.

-Open and forested upland range for beef production, three years, Penn State, \$26,130.

-Vitamin A deficiency and intoxication in horses, three years, University of Pennsylvania, \$16,600.

--Development of diagnostic laboratory methods and clinical intervention programs in equine and bovine botulism, three years, University of Pennsylvania, \$21,165.

Members of the Agriculture Research Committee in addition to Secretary Shelhamer are: Raymond J. Kerstetter, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; Senator Patrick Stapleton, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Senator William Moore, Minority Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee; Representative Paul Yahner, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee; Representative Reno Thomas, Minority member of the House Agriculture Committee; Bernard Hammer, Executive Director of the State Harness Racing Commission; Neal Buss, Special Assistant to Secretary Shelhamer; And Thomas Rowland, Chief of Planning and Research, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Boating accidents took the lives of 1,264 persons in 1976, a marked drop in fatalities, according to the latest U.S. Department of Transportation statistics released today.

The fatality rate dropped to 13.8 for every 100,000 recreational boats, the U.S. Coast Guard reported.

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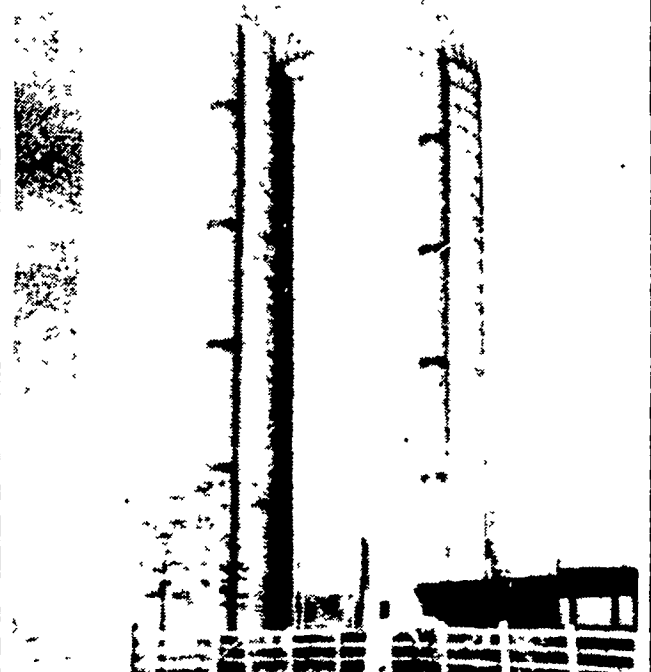
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