

Fruit growers view the newest in equipment

YSBURG - There's a showing of new machinery to get out to a meeting and machinery is to be better. The truth in ment was revealed June 15 when ap- pely 200 fruit from southcentral nia gathered at others Fruit Farm, Pa. for a demon- of orchard equip-

ment. "How do you arrange such perfect spraying weather for this demonstration when as growers we're confronted so often with less than ideal conditions?" This question by William Wilson, RD 1, Biglerville, summarized the near perfect conditons which existed permitting the equipment dealers to display the variety of spray patterns and the differences in application rates which

modern sprayers are capable of delivering. Flexibility is a word which well describes the sprayers now available to growers. Some manufacturers offer as many as ten different models. Skid-mounted models, powered by diesel engines, may be moved through the tree rows on three-quarter ton pick-up trucks. One self-propelled unit featured eight speeds forward or in reverse and

carried a \$36,000 price tag. Tank sizes vary permitting use with tractors of varying size. Dial-type nozzles and adjustable fans add to the flexibility of sprayers for use with different crops. Low profile tractors suitable for use in low branched, close-row plantings attracted lots of interest. One such omni-trac or tricycle type unit demon- strated orchard mowing

trees, but will accomodate a forklift, a pruning tower and other three-point-hitch and power-take-off uses. Another unit suitable for use in close-row plantings featured an air-cooled engine, good fuel economy and a short turning radius made possible by the articulation principle which in effect is a hinge or pivot between the front and rear wheels.

A self-propelled bulk bin carrier for picking up filled

bins in the orchard and delivering these to packinghouses or fruit storage created interest. This unit, developed in California, has been coming into use in New York orchards. A "drop harvester" for use in collecting dropped apples, a low-profile mechanical shaker, a mechanical harvester and a variety of orchard mowers were included among the 32 machines demonstrated by fourteen different distributors.

"This was the largest demonstration of orchard equipment in the East" said Philip Pitzer, host for the event which was co-sponsored by the Adams County Fruitgrowers Association and the Penn State Extension Service. The auxiliary of the Bendersville Fire Company provided a food stand for the event.

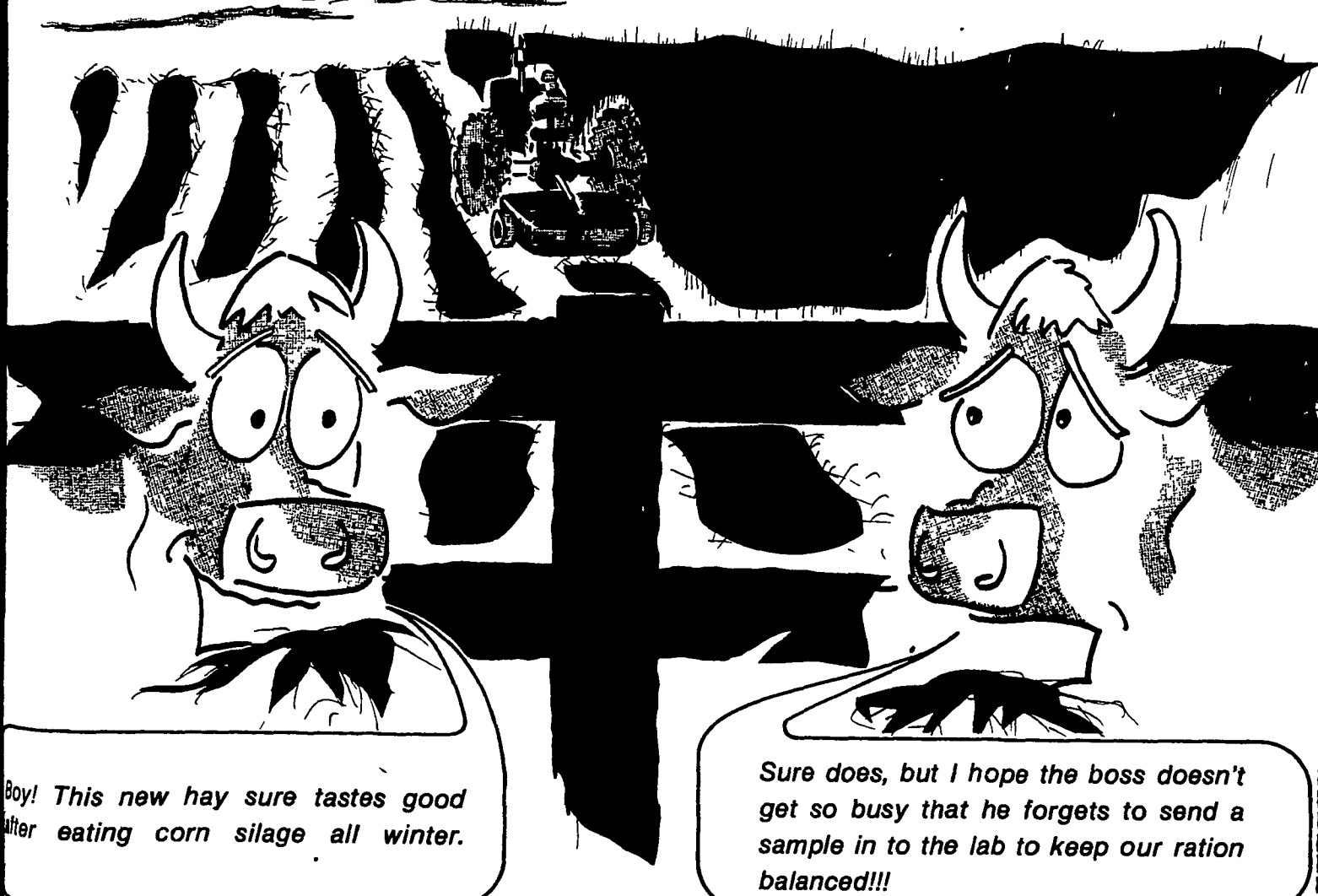


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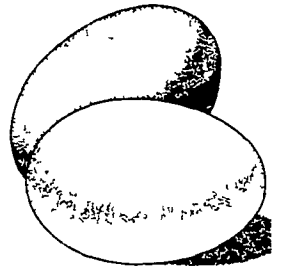
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