

# Farm Women entertained by 4-H'ers

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER their story to a group of the LEESPORT - Berks County 4-H members entertained and explained

their story to a group of the county's farm women during a recent program held at the Agricultural Center. The

purpose of the program was to show the women the different aspects 4-H programs have to offer youth to hopefully get their support in building the proposed 4-H center.

donations of equipment, time, and materials by various individuals and companies.

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About 15 youths demonstrated their award winning skills to the women during the evening. Demonstrations included a piano solo by Lisa Breining of Conrad Weiser 4-H Club, a speech and song by Kim Oswald of Kutztown 4-H, a ballet performance by Kelly Stoner, a demonstration on milk by Karen Sattazahn, and a demonstration on aquariums by Danielle Yoder.

Clyde Myers, county agent, and Leon Kirkoff, chairman of the 4-H Development Council discussed the present and future plans for the center to the Farm Women. Myers explained how the horse rings which have been completed were constructed by the generous contributions of many people. The rings, a project estimated at approximately costing \$10,000 only cost the 4-H development council \$1,200 because of the

Both men agreed that the center, when complete will be one of the best in Pennsylvania. Hopefully, the exhibition building will be built in four or five years.

Winners in the previously held dress review also showed their skills in craftsmanship and modeling to the Farm Women. Displaying their outfits were: Erica Adams, Dina Speece, Lisa Spigelmyer, Lynda Hart, Wendy Zeigler, Eileen Fisher, Diane Wentzel, Nan Reber, and Ruthann Janiszewski.

The Berks County 4-H program will be enlarging at the end of September by adding a new club for Southeastern Berks. The new club will include Horse and Ponies, Rabbits, and Arts and Crafts. Anyone interested should contact the co-chairmen and coordinators, Marion Pilosi, Beau Ridge Farm, Bechelsville, or Eleanor Snyder of Never Gone Farm, Heydt Church.

## Plant lovers' corner

### Nematode infestations stunt growth

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Lawns with thinned-out spots that do not respond to fertilizer or pesticides, or strawberry patches that produce fewer and smaller berries each year, may be infested with nematodes, small roundworms which feed on plant roots.

Parasites less than one-sixteenth of an inch long, nematodes build up to their highest numbers in August, according to Dr. James R. Bloom, professor of plant pathology at Penn State University. Since they are so small, they are often overlooked as the cause of plant diseases.

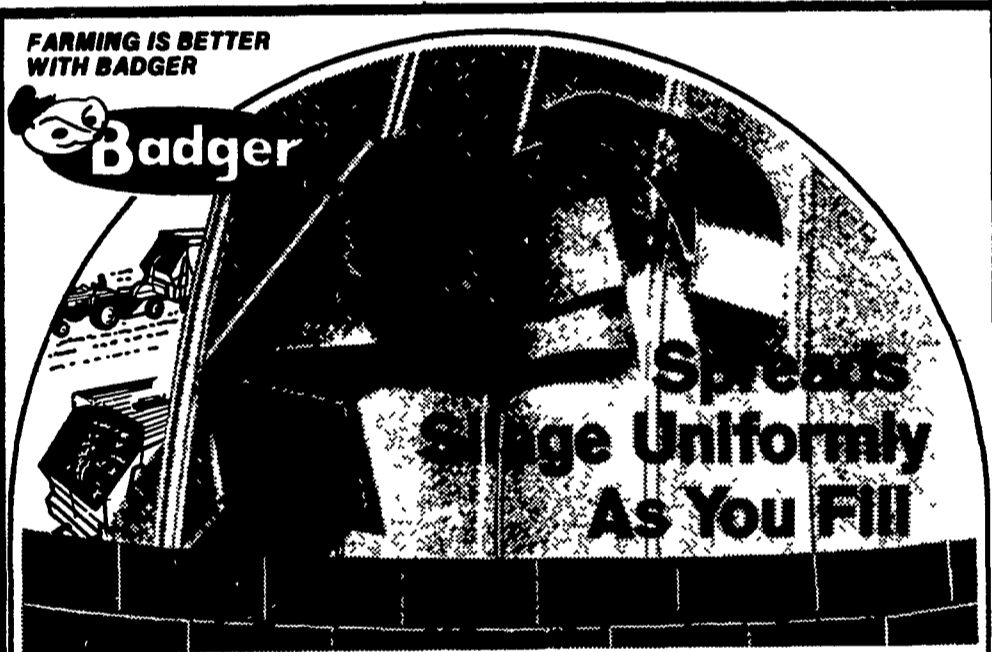
Dr. Bloom suggests that homeowners with baffling "setbacks" of lawns and gardens should have a soil sample examined for nematodes in September. Then the lawns and gardens can be treated with a suitable chemical. About a pint of soil should be collected from the root zone of the affected planting. Then the sample should be placed in a plastic bag and sent to the Plant Disease Clinic, 211 Bucknott Laboratory, University Park, Pa. 16802. The soil should not become dry or heated. Results and recommendations will be returned in about 10 days.

The mouth of a parasitic nematode is similar to a hypodermic needle. This stylet or spear is inserted into the cells of a root. Digestive enzymes are injected into the cell through the stylet and predigested cell contents are withdrawn from the cell as food for the nematode.

Root cells thus injected by nematodes are not killed but cease to function at a normal rate. If enough cells are involved, the plant will suffer. Nematode feeding may also produce galls or knots on roots. Nematodes usually do not kill a plant but weaken it so that it is more easily killed by insects, disease, or winter cold.

Tilling of the soil tends to reduce nematode numbers, due to the drying effect of sun and wind. In perennial plantings, where the soil is not disturbed such as ornamental shrubs, turf, and fruit crops—nematodes may build up from year to year. The nematode population can reach a point where roots are being destroyed faster than they can be replaced by the plant.

(Continued on Page 105)



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