

Tomato grower champions named

POTTSVILLE — Several Schuylkill County tomato growers who produced high yields during 1977 have been named Tomato Growing Champions in machine and hand harvest divisions.

According to Robert F. Fletcher, Extension vegetable crops specialist at Penn State, they were honored for their outstanding yields and recordkeeping practices. Each received a tie clasp award.

The winners from Schuylkill County are: Mrs. Marjorie Maurer, Hegins R1; John W. Hetherington, Ringtown R1; and James Rodichok, Tower City.

The latter producers hand harvested between 25 and 50 acres of tomatoes. The following producers hand

harvested five to 25 acres of tomatoes: Zimmerman Brothers; Pitman; Kenneth Strohecker, Klingerstown R1; William Adams, Pitman; Janet O. Wehry, Klingerstown; Jack Ben-singer, Klingerstown; Robert W. Ramp, Hegins; Leroy Hetherington, Ringtown R1; Lloyd Wehry, Klingerstown R1; Robert Brosius, Pitman; Leonard Adams, Klingerstown; and Lawrence Hetherington, Zion Grove.

The Extension specialist noted that 118 Pennsylvania growers were cited for producing 20 or more tons per acre. The State Tomato Growing Champions recognition program is sponsored by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service and state tomato processors.

Defeat of consumer bill praised

ARLINGTON, Va. — Poultry and Egg Institute of America (PEIA) President Don C. Beaver recently hailed what he termed "grass roots" political action on the part of PEIA members and member state associations to defeat H.R. 6805, a bill to create an Office of Consumer Representation. The U.S. House of Representatives voted 227 to 189 last week against the measure.

Beaver said that PEIA's Board of Directors had unanimously agreed to oppose any such agency when legislative action began on earlier measures several years ago.

"The Institute, for the past several years, has engaged in a strong opposing action with Members of Congress. We alerted our membership

and member state associations as these measures moved forward, urging that they alert their members," said Beaver.

"Industry and association members are to be applauded for their strong and swift action. This find of grass roots effort from the poultry and egg industry undoubtedly was a factor, along with the enormous efforts by groups across the country, in bringing about the defeat of this bill," he emphasized.

The same kind of grass roots action is needed now, Beaver said, in opposing S. 1883, the so-called Labor Reform Act. PEIA's directors are convinced it is not the Federal government's role to aid union organizers.

"As we have indicated to

the Senate Human Resources Committee, we believe it is not the function of the Federal government to come to the aid of union organizers faced with a declining membership. We are especially concerned about provisions in the bill which provide for quick elections," Beaver stated. "I am hopeful that the same powerful factions within our industry which helped to defeat H.R. 6805 will rally to prevent passage of this unwanted legislation."

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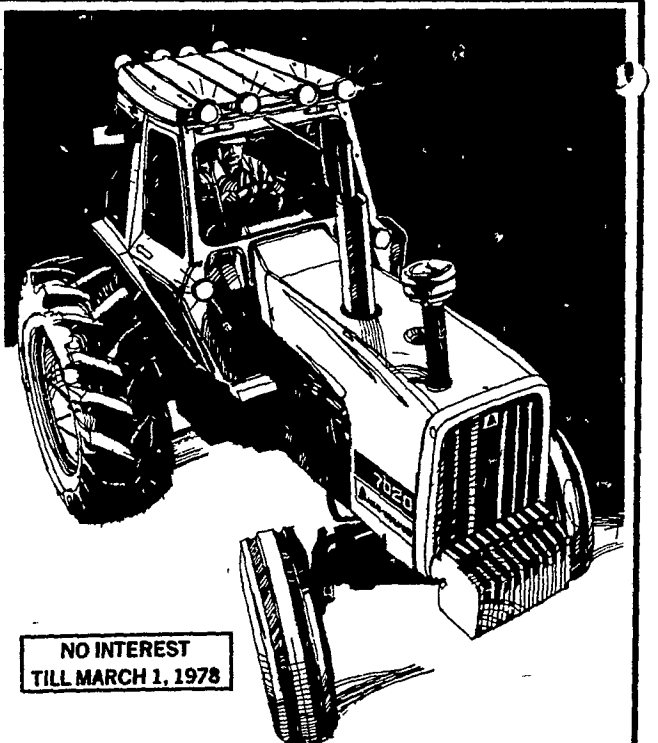
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