

Weight for weight, fat has about 2 1/2 times as many calories as carbohydrates or protein.

Gloomy cold weather

(Continued from Page 1)

damage at this time," the operator of the 119 acre orchard reported on Thursday evening. "It was 25 degrees one morning and 30 degrees for the past two days. I think we can take the 30 degrees because the blossoms are still in tight clusters, but I don't know about the 25 degrees."

Eighty per cent of Haas' orchard is in apples, pears, and nectarines.

"In the low areas, we could have lost the apples completely," he projects. "Or, they could have injured skin as they grow, and we could get No. 2's." Number two's cut the fruit's market value in half.

Haas is more optimistic about peaches, however, saying that he thinks they can take the temperatures better at this point.

And, even though he may have sustained damage on his crops, Haas is typically realistic about the situation.

"Look," he states, "If every year was perfect, there would be 10 times more fruit grown. It's a gamble, and one you choose to live with. Right now we're hoping."

Adams Countians are also hoping and "sitting on pins and needles," as Phillip Pitzer, Aspers R1, president of the Adams County Fruit Growers, puts it.

Adams County had really severe weather on Monday morning with their mercury going down as far as 17 degrees F. in some places, although other areas experienced 22 to 25 degrees F.

"That was too cold to escape damage," Pitzer states matter-of-factly. "But, the amount of damage depends on the duration of the cold. If we only had that cold for one hour compared to, say, three hours, there would be a difference."

But, Pitzer notes that it is basically "way too early to tell how much damage was

done." He believes that it may take as long as six weeks to tell.

"We are finding some damage on cherries at this time, but there could be internal damage that won't show up for a while," notes this orchardist.

Until six weeks are up, the fruit growers are forced to wait.

"And, that's a long time to wait," Pitzer noted.

Paul McPherson, owner of Maple Lawn Farms, New Park, and past president of the National Peach Council, reports that although the 22 degree temperatures his region experienced on Monday should have "killed everything," he only suffered spotty damage on his peaches, mostly in low areas.

"It's really taken a couple of days to see where there is damage," he reports.

The owner of a 175 acre orchard predominantly in peaches, says that even though the temperature was dangerously low, other conditions were favorable. For instance, the humidity was low.

"And, it also seems possible for them to toughen up when the weather is consistently colder prior to a frost. Don't ask me how, but they seem to be able to take the cold better than," McPherson stated.

He doesn't think his apples

got hurt, but that his peaches were at their most critical point.

"But," he adds, "what I think could be a worse problem than the frost damage is the bad pollinating weather we've been experiencing."

McPherson, who rents bees for pollination, figures he's only had about four good hours out of the past two weeks when the bees could fly.

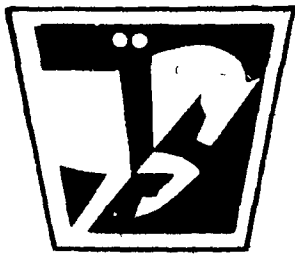
"It's been positively terrible bee weather," he exclaims. "Bees don't like the cold, and they don't like wind, and they especially don't like the combination." To add to the problem, bees don't like rain, either, which is a weather condition Southeast Pennsylvania has been experiencing for the past few days.

"I don't know if they've been doing the job or not," states McPherson, noting that this Winter was hard on bees, both domesticated and natural.

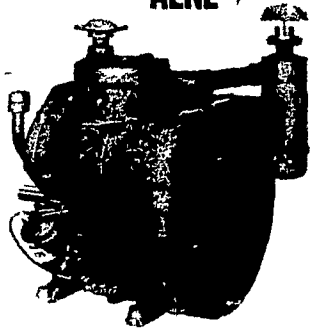
Eugene Blevins, part proprietor and manager of Blevin's Fruit Farm, a family owned operation near Stewartstown, is not as concerned about the bee activity.

"The peaches are already pollinated, the cherries should be, and the apples are only opening up," he states. So, Blevins figures that if the

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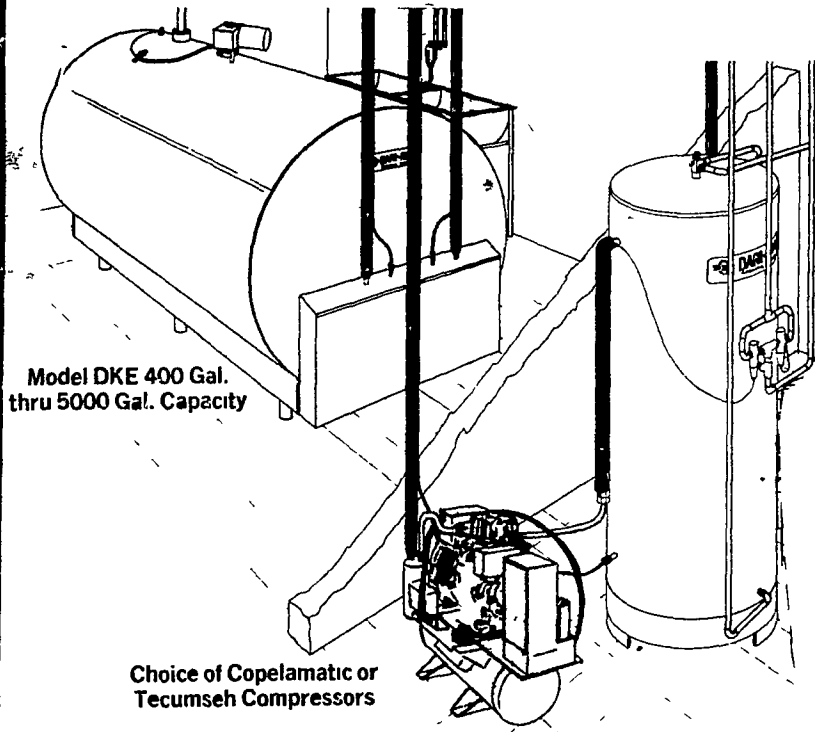


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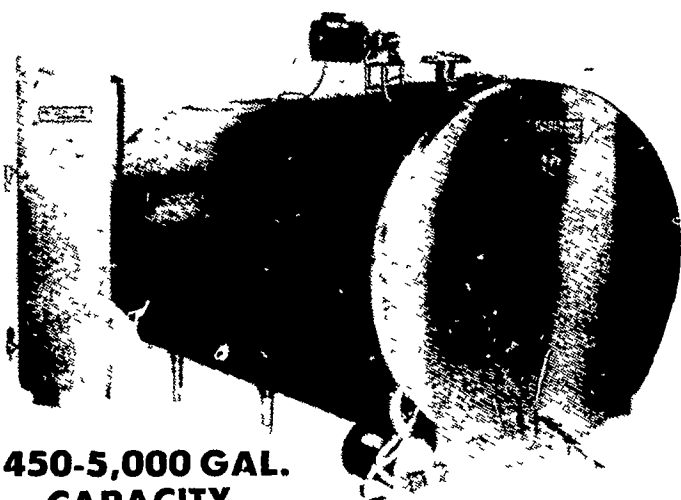


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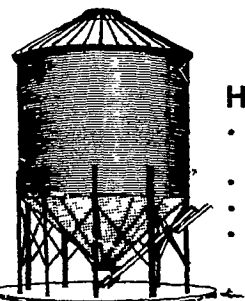
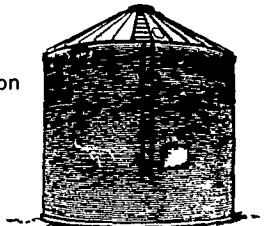
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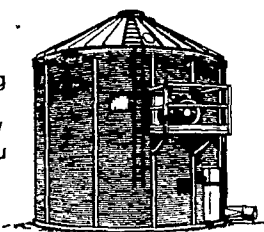


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