

11 ag research projects approved

HARRISBURG — State agriculture secretary Kent Shelhamer has announced the approval of 11 agricultural research projects totaling \$239,744. The approval came from the nine-member agriculture research committee chaired by Shelhamer, with funding for the projects from a \$400,000 allocation from horse and harness racing revenues.

Shelhamer said that the committee had approved six new projects totaling \$155,594, and had approved, pending additional executive authorization, four more projects of \$66,191. An additional continuing project was also approved at \$17,959. Shelhamer noted that earlier in the year the committee had approved 10 continuing research projects at a total cost of \$220,256.

He explained that the four provisional projects would be funded if the governor gives his approval to spend the balance of revenues from previous years which remained in the research fund revenues.

The new projects had been discussed at the April 11 meeting of the committee and were approved on May 11 in Harrisburg. Shelhamer noted that these agricultural

research projects become more valuable each year as new developments in agriculture become a way for farmers to meet the continually rising consumer demands for top quality products.

"We hope that these new agricultural research projects will yield maximum benefits for our farmers while minimizing taxpayers costs," Shelhamer noted.

He added that five projects went to Penn State, three to

the University of Pennsylvania, one to the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, one to the Pennsylvania Food Processors Association and one to the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Plant Industry.

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

—Alleviating deer damage to Pennsylvania agriculture,

a three-year project, Penn State, \$27,314.

—Development of procedures for evaluation of soil conditioners and plant growth substances, a three-year project, Penn State, \$30,000.

—A fruit rot control system for processing tomatoes, a three-year project, Penn State, \$28,913.

—Optimizing production and production efficiency in dairy cattle by controlling rumen fermentation, a three-year project, University of Pennsylvania, \$16,385.

—Natural mode of transmission of the bovine leukemia virus (BLV); development of a vaccine, a three-year project, University of Pennsylvania, \$33,500.

—Distribution, impact and control of the dagger nematode and the viruses it transmits on apple, grape and stone fruit in Pennsylvania, a three-year project, Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, \$19,482.

The four new projects pending approval by the governor include:

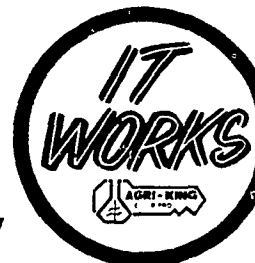
—Aflatoxin in eggs — a potential human health hazard, a three-year study, Penn State, \$20,000.

—Effects of selenium deficiency on sperm of stallions and bulls, a two-year project, University of Pennsylvania, \$20,018.

—Pennsylvania direct marketing project, three years, Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, \$11,173.

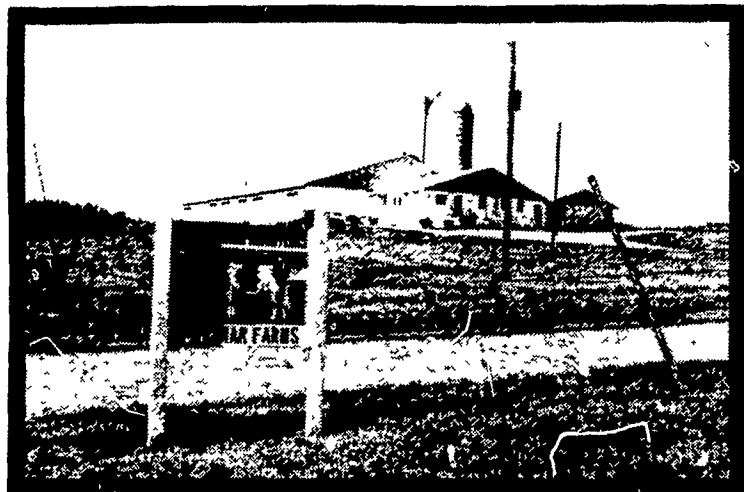
—The effect of high temperature, short time processing on the quality of yield of canned mushrooms, two years, Strasburger and Siegel, Inc., \$15,000.

A study of alternatives to property taxation for financing Pennsylvania's public schools by Penn State was approved for \$17,959 as a continuing project.

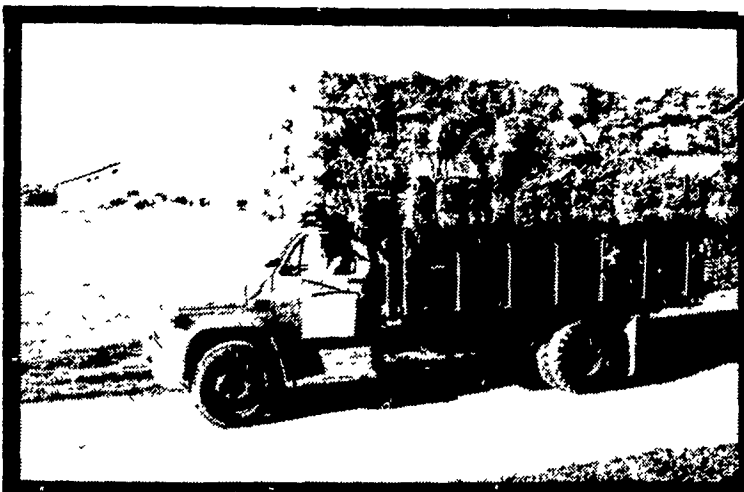


Silo King On Baled Hay

Harold and Wayne Leshar of Way-Har Farms in Berks County tell of their experience in using Silo King on baled hay.



The Leshar Brothers Dairy Set-Up.



Harold on his way to auction with a load of their top quality hay.

"We feel that hay is the best cash crop (return per acre) a farmer can raise in this area today. We had 400 acres of hay last year and we baled over 26,000 bales plus filling our 20x50 silo twice with haylage. We baled very little rained on hay, but we did bale a lot that was not fit to bale because of weather conditions. By using Silo King we were able to bale the hay at a higher moisture level which helped us to beat the weather and save more nutrition."

"We feed over 200 head of dairy livestock and sell the remainder of the hay. Last year we sold over 200 tons, and to our surprise we found very little mold in any of the hay; and it also kept its color."

"We have used Silo King 5 our of the past 6 years. We became sold on Silo King after trying another preservative for one year. The Silo King works and it is easy to apply by using the Gandy Applicator on our baler."

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Beekeeping meeting set

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN — A beekeeping program sponsored by the Schuylkill County Cooperative Extension Service will be held on June 15 at the Penn State University Schuylkill campus. A movie entitled "Secret in the Hive" will be shown. Following the movie a discussion on forming a county beekeeper's association will be held.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. For further information contact Dale D. Moyer, Schuylkill County Cooperative Extension Service, 717-385-3431.

Milk has a lot

It's estimated that, during 1977, dairy foods contributed only 11.1 per cent of the total calories available in the U.S. food supply, yet they provided:

75 per cent of the calcium, 39 per cent of the riboflavin, 35 per cent of the phosphorus, 22 percent of the protein, 22 per cent of the magnesium, 20 per cent of the vitamin B-12, 13 per cent of the vitamin A value, 11 per cent of the vitamin B-6, 9 per cent of the thiamin (B-1), almost all the vitamin D intake and significant amounts of niacin equivalents.