

Apple prices not showing inflated costs

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — Prices offered Eastern apple producers by processors are not reflecting current inflated costs, or supply and

demand, Howard Reed Heritage said recently.

"Prices offered producers are inconsistent with supply, demand and all other factors

that affect the market," Heritage said. "I can't explain it, and the producers don't understand it."

Heritage, general

manager of the American Agricultural Marketing Association, said a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast predicted that, in view of smaller supplies of other fruits, prices to apple growers during 1978 should remain at levels only slightly below those of 1977.

"However, prices currently offered by processors are considerably lower than 1977 prices," Heritage said. "For example, Virginia processors are offering seven per cent less for juice apples and a whopping 27 per cent less for sauce apples than last season."

Heritage pointed out that apple product demand has been excellent with juice shipments for the 1977-78 marketing season up 13 per cent and applesauce shipments up nine per cent.

Fertilizer law praised, soil conditioners to be tested

HARRISBURG — While addressing a group of Pennsylvania State Grange leaders in Harrisburg last week, State Secretary of Agriculture Kent Shelhamer commended the Grange for its work with the fertilizer laws this past year.

Under the old regulations, fertilizer manufacturers were penalized for three times the fertilizer value that their product was deficient.

The new regulations supported by the Penn-

sylvania State Grange, penalized the manufacturers for ten times the deficient fertilizer values.

Shelhamer promised that "we will be paying a lot of attention to the violators" and that the bulk plants would be regulated.

The Secretary further promised some evaluations would be performed on soil conditioners.

He cautioned that at the present time, there is no procedure to test this product. "However, Penn State is working on this

problem with money from the Ag Research Fund."

While talking about soil conditioners, Shelhamer pointed out that there is some data available on those soil conditioners that are algae-based.

"These soil conditioners do work in some parts of the world," said the Secretary, but they need a warm, high humidity, they must be applied no deeper than 1/10" in the soil, and they cannot stand herbicides.

Secretary Shelhamer went on to cite the accomplishments of the State Department of Agriculture this past year.

"We were the first Ag Department of all the states to come out against the use of caseins in ice cream."

Mr. Shelhamer said that he has been working to streamline his Department.

"I have abolished 50 positions in my Department this year with little effect on our efficiency."

John Marsteller wins tractor drive

YORK — John Marsteller of Kennard-Dale High School is the top tractor driver among York County's Future Farmers of America members, according to competition which took place here last week at the York Fair.

Placing second in the all-

county event was Clay Tyson of Red Lion High School. Third in line for the honors was Jeff Koler from the Eastern FFA Chapter.

Jeff Kerr, Northern; Andy Bange, Southwestern; Nelson Brenneman, Dover; and Greg Fantom, Kennard-Dale, followed in that order.

He added that juice and marketing season, were sauce inventories on August three per cent lower than 1, the start of the 1978-79 last year.

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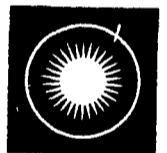
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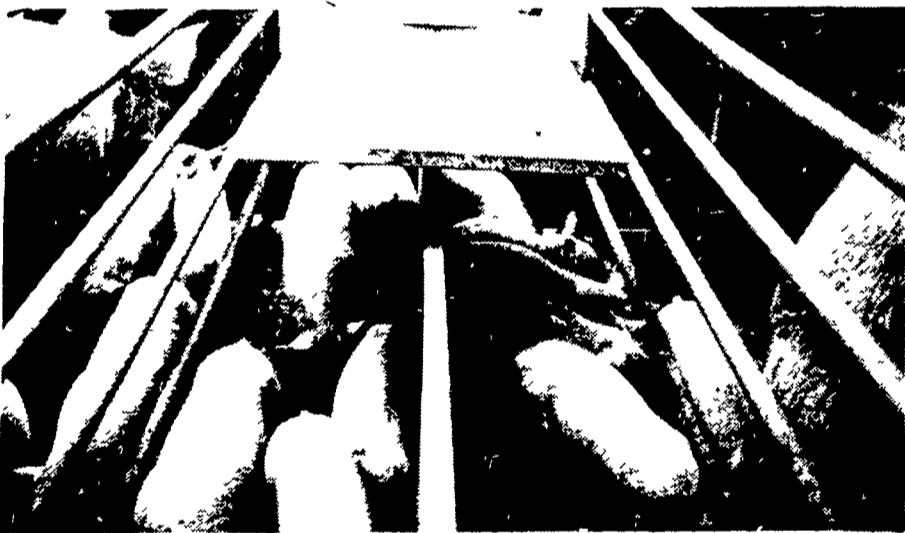
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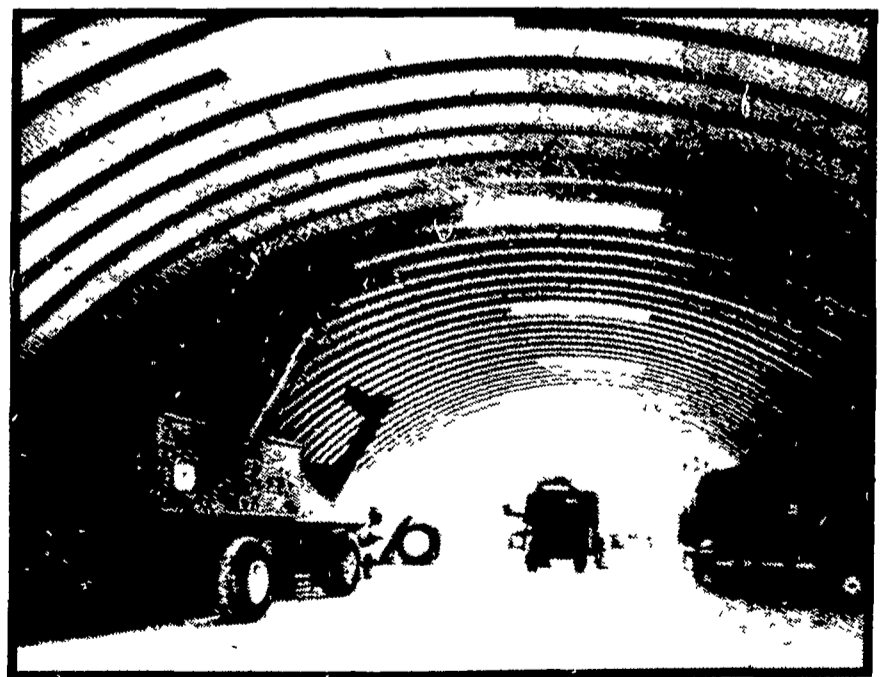


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