

Tomato growers discuss a variety of concerns

By JOAN LIESAU
HERSHEY — Three different aspects to tomato and vegetable growing were presented to several hundred people at tomato day, held in conjunction with the Vegetable Growers Convention recently at the Hershey Convention Center, Hershey.

Dr. Lyle Forer spoke on different diseases carried from out of state through tomato transplants. Dr. Cyril Smith compared the benefits, and detriments of liming and fertilizing. Hydrogeologist Earl Meiser discussed the disposal of organic wastes on the farm,

dealing with soil types and amounts of disposal according to the soil types.

Forer, who is with the Bureau of Plant Industry, said that early blight and root rot nematode blight have been the growers biggest problems in the last 10 years. He said their department looks at 50 to 60 million plants in a three to four week period. "Many of the plants are apparently clean when they arrive" to be examined for disease he said. The plants don't show signs of the disease because they need an incubation period before the disease becomes evident.

Forer said they have incubated some of the out of state plants in their lab. The testing showed up the Southern Blight disease. Plants with this disease are already being established in Pennsylvania he stated. The researchers were concerned that this disease would over-winter in Pennsylvania but "the limited work we did on it suggested it would not over-winter" Forer said.

Bacterial speck-pseudomonas, is an outward symptom which causes specks on the fruit. "Even when the skin comes off the tomato, the specks are still there" he said. Even though the



Dr. Lyle Forer



Dr. Cyril Smith



Earl Meiser

Livestock market and auction news

Lancaster Weekly

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BULLS: Yield grade 1 1100-2100 lb. 63.75-67.50, few 67.50-69.25, individual 1685 lb. 72.00; yield grade 2 1000-1350 lb. 60.50-64.50, few 58.00-60.00.

VEAL CALVES: Vealers mostly steady, instances 5.00 higher on high Good and low Choice 70-120 lb.

VEALERS: Prime 280-350 lb. 100.00-116.00; Choice 160-300 lb. 105.00-116.00, 10 head 123.00-133.00; Choice 120-160 lb. 98.00-112.00; high Good and low Choice 120-240 lb.

90.00-108.00, 90-120 lb. 85.00-97.00, 70-90 lb. 75.00-90.00, few 60-75 lb. 60.00-76.00.

RETURNED TO FARM: Bulk 100-115 lb. Holstein bulls 108.00-126.00, several 126.00-131.00, 12 head 120-125 lb. 108.00, bulk 85-100 lb. 92.00-106.00. 25 head 100-115 lb. Holstein heifers 112.00-118.00, few 80-100 lb. 90.00-105.00.

Market courtesy of USDA.

Lancaster Feeder Cattle

Lancaster, Pa.
Fri., February 9, 1979
Feeder Cattle
Today 213
Last Friday 108

Last Year 262

TREND: Insufficient volume for a market test, as bulk of supply sold in lots of three or less in clean up trade.

FEEDER STEERS: One lot mixed Good and Choice 650 lbs. 70.50, few lots mixed Good and Choice 835-1030 lbs. 64.85-66.50.

Market courtesy of USDA.

Cool Gravy

Because gravy and meat broth are both highly perishable, they should be cooled quickly. Don't keep in the refrigerator for more than two days.

plants are inspected, Forer stated there are diseases being introduced through field grown transplants. "I have seen some very serious stand losses associated with this pathogens" he said "but we have found very little loss from the use of seedlings." Forer suggested that seed be treated this year to avoid this problem, primarily from the stand point of transplanting.

Forer added that leaf spot has been introduced into Pennsylvania. "Black rot can also accompany a transplant" he continued. Black rot is seed born, so hot water seed treatment will take care of the problem.

"If plants could speak, it would be amazing what they could tell us" said Dr. Cyril Smith, professor of plant

nutrition at the Pennsylvania State University. Smith said much research has been done on the lime conditions of soil, but not on the plant itself.

Smith stated that "dolomitic lime will supply magnesium very well but not calcium. Since calcium forms building stones, this can be a problem." "If the soil pH is 7.0, it doesn't guarantee the plant is getting a good calcium supply. Smith concluded that dolomitic lime should only be used when the magnesium is low. When dolomitic lime was applied at a rate of two tons per acre, the leaf magnesium of sweet corn increased 50 per cent in 60 days.

Crops were different in their response to lime Smith

reported. Magnesium toxicity and lowered calcium levels in a test, killed beets but there was no response from cabbage.

Smith said research has been done on what role fertilizer plays in vegetable production. Out of 110 experiments over a 20 year period, 35 per cent of the tests showed no response to fertilizer. A good response was shown with sweet corn and snap beans when 25 pounds of NP was banded per acre.

"One rule that should remain" Smith said "is that you don't use more fertilizer than is recommended in a soil test." Smith said that "any fertilizer that will give you an economical return

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BIG FARM POWER AND EQUIPMENT

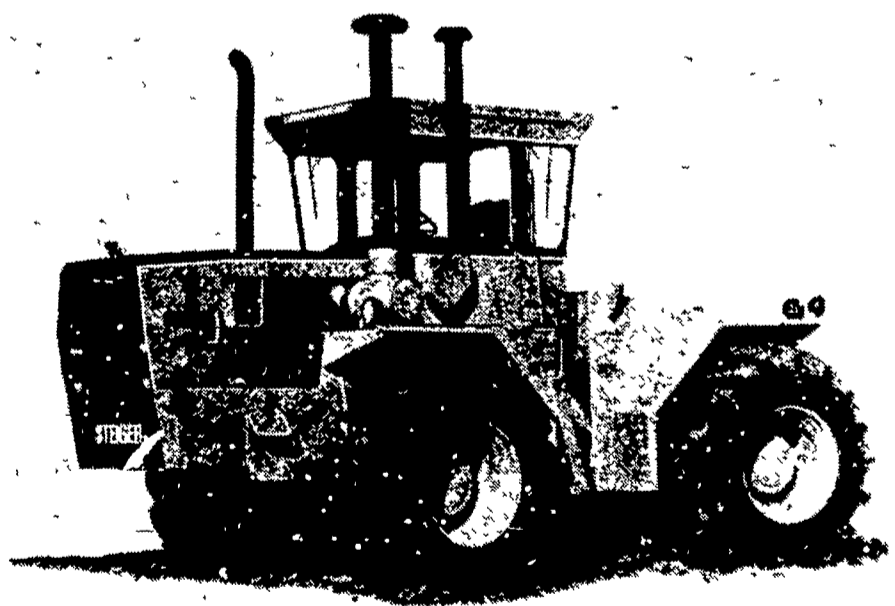
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