

Reclamation program gets response

HARRISBURG - Nearly 2,400 people applied for aid under the new Rural Abandoned Mine Program during the first sign-up period, according to R. M. Davis, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

The program, established by the Secretary of Agriculture, under authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, provides individuals with cost-sharing and technical assistance to reclaim non-federal land disturbed by coal mining.

Applications for assistance under the program were received in 21 of the 29 eligible states as of April 1. One-third of the applications were filed in Pennsylvania, which has the most abandoned mined land in need of reclamation - 240,000 acres.

The Federal Government's share of reclamation will range from 25 to 100 percent, depending on the acreage to be reclaimed, the proposed use, and whether the benefits are mostly on-site (private) or off-site (public). Each landowner may receive funds for reclamation up to 320 acres. The contract covers a 5 to 10-year period.

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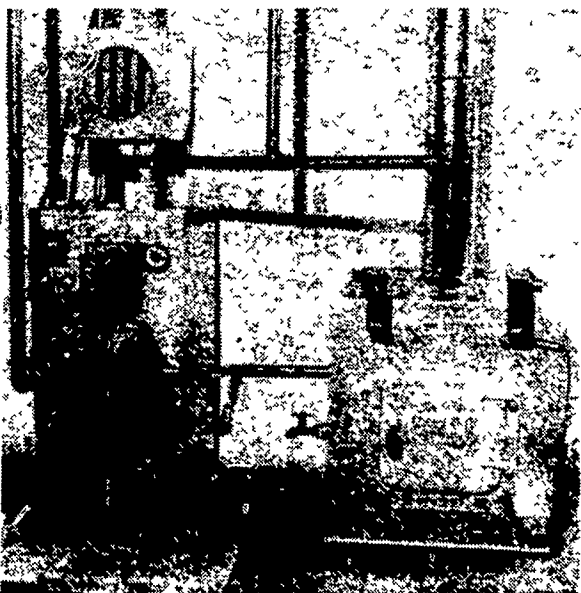
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Animal nutrition noted at Pfizer research conference

ST. LOUIS, MO—Research scientists reported significant 1978 developments in animal and poultry nutrition and health at the 27th Annual Pfizer Research Conference here this week. The keynote address was presented by Irving R. Levine, Washington, D.C.-based NBC News economic affairs correspondent, who discussed his views on "The Carter Administration and The National Economy."

Dr. F. Howard Kratzer, chairman of the department of avian sciences at the University of California at Davis, reported that major progress in poultry nutrition research had been made in the areas of the function of vitamin D in the diet, the determination of metabolizable energy content of feedstuffs, the function of biotin, the improvement of rapeseed meal for poultry, the evaluation of

single cell protein as a feed source and the consequences of feed restriction of bird performance.

Purdue University's Dr. T. W. Perry, professor of animal nutrition, told the conference that research on forages highlighted work in the ruminant nutrition area in 1978. Other studies has examined the effects of trace minerals, particularly selenium and copper, the artificial rearing of calves and the use of animal wastes as a feedstuff.

Studies on increasing the birth weight and liveability of baby pigs were major research areas in swine nutrition in the past year, according to Dr. A. J. Clawson, professor of animal science at North Carolina State University. Dr. Clawson said emphasis was directed toward solving problems related to

minerals, especially the selenium-vitamin E deficiency in young pigs. In addition, a large number of studies were directed toward unraveling the mysteries of intestinal digestion and absorption.

Dr. H. E. Amstutz, professor of veterinary medicine at Purdue University, said respiratory diseases continue to be the major cause of disease loss in beef cattle and a major problem in dairy cattle, with pasteurella the real killer. Dr. Amstutz said research in 1978 focused on drug incompatibilities and their effect on laboratory tests as well as bacterial resistance to commonly used antibacterial compounds. He notes that infection and other agents used as antiviral weapons promise to receive much emphasis in future years.

Dairy princess to be chosen

EASTON — Two young women from Northampton and Lehigh Counties will compete for the title of Northampton-Lehigh Dairy Princess May 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Palmer Park Mall, Easton.

The Dairy Princess will be the official representative of the dairy industry in Northampton and Lehigh Counties. She will promote dairy products and help to educate consumers in their variety and value. She will be available for public appearances during her year reign and will compete in September against county princesses from throughout Pennsylvania for state honors.

The contestants must be between 16 and 22 and be from a dairy farming family or own her own cows. The two local competitors are Lois Heyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Heyer of

Kutztown R2, a junior at Northwestern Lehigh High School; and Martha Guest, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Herbert Guest of Nazareth, a senior at Nazareth Area High School.

Each contestant will present a three to five minute demonstration and answer a series of questions. Criteria for winning include personality, appearance, ability to speak in public and knowledge of the dairy industry.

The judges are H. Theodore DuBois, Allentown, kitchen draftsman for Hancock Kitchens and former Lehigh County Extension agent; Joseph

Reibman of Easton, North Co. councilman and attorney; and Mrs. Barbara Shiffer of Nazareth, former Home Economist.

The event is sponsored jointly by the Northampton County Holstein Club and the Lehigh County Holstein Association under guidelines set up by the Keystone Milk Marketing Council and the American Dairy Council.

A cow coloring contest is being sponsored by county dairy farm stores. Winners in each category will receive "Milk is the One" T-shirt and the winning entries will be displayed at the mall on May 18 and 19.

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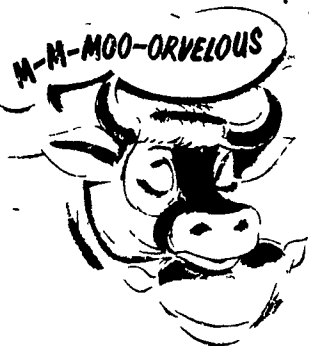
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