

Ag research committee okays 12 contracts

HARRISBURG - State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell has announced the approval of 12 continuing agricultural research projects for a total of \$284,885. Approval for the projects came from the nine-member Agriculture Research Committee chaired by Hallowell, with funding from a \$400,000 allocation from state horse

and harness racing revenues.

Six of the projects are being conducted by the Pennsylvania State University, four by the University of Pennsylvania, one by the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry, and one is being privately run.

Dan Cook, director of the Department's Office of

Planning and Research, said that the Agriculture Research Committee has evaluated the progress of 16 continuing projects, and had approved 12 in a meeting held May 1 in the Agriculture Building. He said, "The goal of the committee is to fund projects which will benefit our farmers, while making the best use of the taxpayers' dollar."

New project proposals amounting to over \$369,000 were discussed at the meeting, as were four continuing projects which annually amount to \$89,644.

The continuing projects approved by a majority vote of the nine members are:

- Potato Verticillium Wilt, to control the disease by cultural and genetic

methods; Penn State, \$23,329.

- Pome Fruits, calcium nutrition; Penn State, \$34,705.

- Deer Damage, to alleviate deer damage to Pennsylvania agriculture; Penn State, \$25,050.

- Aflatoxin in Eggs, potential human health hazard; Penn State, \$21,000.

- Soil Conditioners, to develop procedures for evaluation of soil conditioners and plant growth substances; Penn State, \$33,000.

- Tomato Rot, a fruit rot control system for processing tomatoes; Penn State, \$27,569.

- Vitamin D Deficiency, in horses; University of Pennsylvania, \$23,610.

- Equine and Bovine Botulism, to develop diagnostic laboratory methods and clinical intervention programs; University of Pennsylvania, \$19,365.

- Dairy Cattle Rumen Control, optimizing production and production efficiency in dairy cattle by controlling rumen fermentation; University of Pennsylvania, \$16,385.

- Bovine Leukemia Virus Transmission, development of a vaccine; University of Pennsylvania, \$31,890.

- Nematode Control, distribution, impact and control of the dagger nematode and the viruses it transmits on apple, grape and stone fruit in Pennsylvania; Agriculture Department's Bureau of Plant Industry; \$21,482.

- The effect of high temperature-short time processing on the quality and yield of canned mushrooms; Strasburger and Siegel, Inc., \$7,500.

Members of the Agriculture Research Committee in addition to Hallowell and Cook are: E. Chester Heim, deputy secretary of agriculture; J. Luther Snyder, deputy secretary of agriculture; Senator Patrick J. Stapleton, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; Senator Frank O'Connell, minority chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; Representative Reno Thomas, chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; Representative Paul Yahner, Jr., minority chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; and Bernard Hammer, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission.

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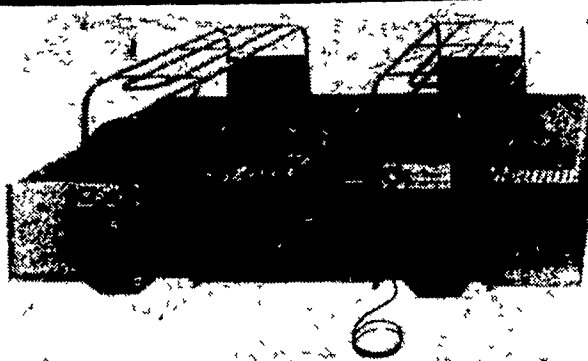
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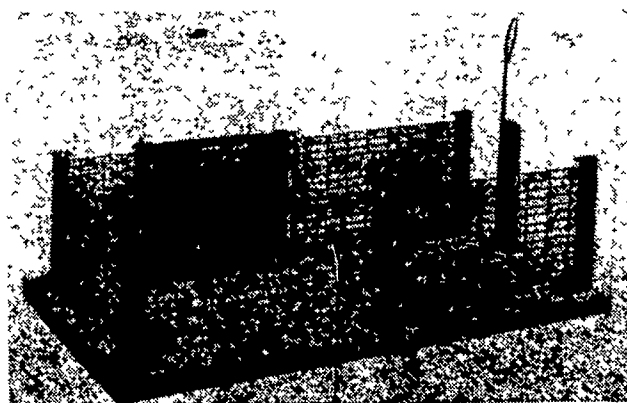
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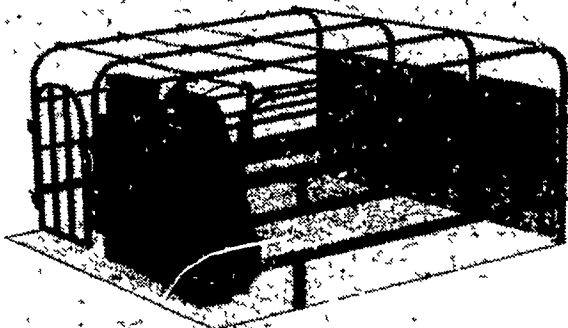
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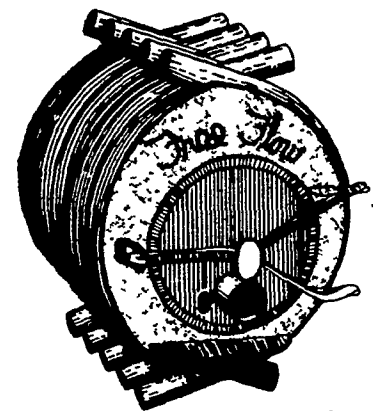
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