## Enzyme treated milk products proposed for meat extenders

WASHINGTON, D.C. -Two milk products-sodium caseinate and calciumreduced dried skim milkwould be treated with the enzyme rennet and used as binders and extenders in certain meat and poultry products, under a proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The two mulk products. without the enzyme treatment, are already approved for this use.

Rennet is a natural product which has been used for many years in making cheese. According to Lou Gast, deputy administrator for compliance of the department's Food Safety and Quality Service, rennet does not alter the nutritional character of these binderextenders.

The binder-extenders are the result of recent technological innovations, Gast said, and are said to improve product texture.

For the enzyme-treated binders and extenders to perform the function of holding together finished products, calcium lactate must be added to the meat or poultry mixture before cooking. Calcium lactate is a binding agent which is generally recognized as safe by the Food and Drug Administration.

enzyme-treated The calcium-reduced dried skim milk would be permitted in sausage, imitation sausage, nonspecific loaves (luncheon loaf, honey loaf, etc.), soups, stews, and such poultry products as chicken frankfurters.

Enzyme-treated sodium caseinate could be used in all of these products except sausage. Federal regula-tions limit the amount of water which may be added to sausage, and the presence of sodium caseinate in these products would make it difficult to measure added

## Experiments compare potato varieties

UNIVERSITY PARK -Pennsylvania potato growers are searching for the ideal variety, one that produces superior yields while being high in total solids (specific gravity) as needed for the processing industry.

Some of the best varieties for Pennsylvania were described August 2 during meetings of the American Society for Horticultural Science at Columbus, Ohio. Presenting the results of a study in Somerset County, Pa., was Jack E. Staub of Bountiful, Utah, graduate assistant in horticulture at Penn State.

Best average yields from research plots in Somerset County came from plantings made May 15, Staub pointed out. However, the highest specific gravities were achieved with potatoes planted May 1. Other planting dates in the comparisons were June 1 and June 15.

Varieties compared were Norchip, Atlantic, Katahdin, Kennebec, Penn 71, and Buckskin. Three varieties

with the best yields — Penn 71, Kennebec, and Katahdin were poor in specific gravity. Nonetheless, Penn 71 and Kennebec made acceptable yields when planted May 1 and had acceptable specific gravities as well.

Based on these trials. Staub and faculty associates at Penn State are recommending that potato varieties with both high vields and adequate specific gravity be developed as soon as possible. The findings are similar to earlier potato comparisons in the Commonwealth.

Norchip and Buckskin were relatively low yielding in the trials. At the same time, their specific gravities were higher, on the average,

than the other varieties with Fusarium control treatthe exception of Atlantic.

"Undoubtedly the most discouraging results in these tests were the low specific gravities of high-yielding varieties," Staub commented.

While the new variety Atlantic produced good yields and had excellent specific gravities, caution was advised. Storage quality, vital in the processing industry, was rated very poor for Atlantic from May plantings and only fair from June plantings. Storage of all other varieties except Norchip was good at all planting dates.

Future tests of Atlantic's storage abilities are needed. Staub affirmed, when a sprout inhibitor and

ments are used.

The test results are pertment for potato growing areas in Cambria as well as Somerset County, it was pointed out. Associated with the project were Dr. Richard H. Cole, Extension specialist in potato production, and county agents James A. Bochy and Herbert C. Terndrup of Somerset and Cambria counties. respectively.

Following storage at 50° Fahrenheit, all the varieties produced potato chips with good color except Katahdın. In baking and boiling comparisons, Atlantic was the best baker but the only poor boiler. The only internal quality problem was noticed with Atlantic.

## Berks Co. hosts conserve energy tour

this year's Conservation Tour, which is sponsored by the Agricultural Conservation Stabilization Service, Berks County Conservation District, Bureau of Forestry, Cooperative Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, and Soil Conservation Service. The bus tour will be held on Friday, September 14, 1979.

The tour will highlight

Arriormanie

LEESPORT - "Conserve various agricultural and Energy" will be the theme of energy conservation practices. Among these will be a solar grain dryer. located on the farm of Winfield J. Finkbinder, Jr., and a wind propelled electric generator, on the Douglas McHirkam property. The Fred Bohn farm will display a number of conservation practices, including storage terraces. Other points of interest include the Donald Landıs farm, various Farmers Home Ad-

ministration houses, and a large hog operation. Lunch will be served at the Trainers Midway Diner.

A limited number of tickets will be sold. Deadline for purchasing tickets is September 10, 1979. The cost of \$7.00 per person includes bus transportation and a buffet style luncheon.

Anyone interested in the "Conserve Energy" tour should contact the Berks County Agricultural Center at 372-4655



