

Grange Master praises French Creek efforts

HARRISBURG — Charles E. Wismer, Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, congratulated the 1200 members of the Chester County Granges for their efforts in gaining the modifications on the French Creek Scenic River proposal, Harrisburg Thursday.

"The persistence they demonstrated in protecting

their rights as landowners demonstrates what people can do if they work together," Wismer said.

In its January meeting, the Chester County Pomona Grange voted unanimously to oppose the French Creek Scenic River proposal in its present form.

Everett Wilson, R 2, Phoenixville, Chester County's Pomona

Legislative Chairman, voiced strong opposition to the plan, saying it would "put another restriction on our land and infringe on property owners' rights."

Criticizing the Department of Environmental Resources' Scenic River Management, Guidelines, Wilson stated they were "Too vague and uncertain to

merit our approval."

On behalf of the members of the Chester County Pomona Grange, State Master Wismer met with Chester County legislators and representatives of DER to work out a compromise.

According to Fred Fox, Legislative Liaison for DER, the provision for using eminent domain to procure

"scenic easements" along French Creek will be expressly forbidden in the implementing legislation.

Fox stated cattle will continue to be allowed access to the stream. "Existing local ordinances and property owners' rights will not be infringed upon."

He stipulated that "the only prohibition involved in the Scenic River designation will be that no dams can be constructed on the creek."

This will not affect the use of minor tributaries into the creek for farm pond construction," Fox stated.

Further, an agreement has been worked out with Pen DOT to widen and straighten Route 100 where it crosses French Creek. Instrumental in working out these final agreements were State Representatives Lynch and Smith, and State Senators Stauffer and Snyder.

USDA to adopt safeguards for importing horses

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will allow stallions to be imported from countries affected with contagious equine matrisis if the stallions are first cleaned and treated with an antibiotic.

The new regulations add the requirement that these imported male horses may only go to states that have laws or regulations requiring additional inspection, treatment and testing to insure their freedom from this venereal disease of horses.

Also, the state must be approved by the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. A list of approved states will be published as they meet requirements. This rule will be reviewed following a comment period, which ends March 1, 1980.

According to Pierre A. Halloux, APHIS deputy administrator, this action is

being taken because of the many comments received in writing or at public meetings of horsemen. It will provide an additional method of importing stallions prior to the forthcoming breeding season.

CEM is a highly transmissible venereal disease of horses. The stallion is a mechanical carrier and can usually be freed of the bacteria by cleaning and scrubbing the genitals, followed by treatment with a specific antibiotic. The organism readily infects mares, usually causing

failure to conceive or early abortion.

This disease has spread to a number of nations since it was first noted in 1976. Spread is principally caused by the international shipment of infected breeding horses.

Countries currently considered to be affected with CEM are Australia, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom (England, Wales,

Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man).

CEM invaded the United States twice — in 1973 and 1979. Both outbreaks are being eradicated.

The complete text of this rule was published in the Jan. 4, 1980 Federal Register. Comments should be sent to the Import Staff, USDA, APHIS, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hayttsville, Md. 20782. Copies of the rule are available from this same office.

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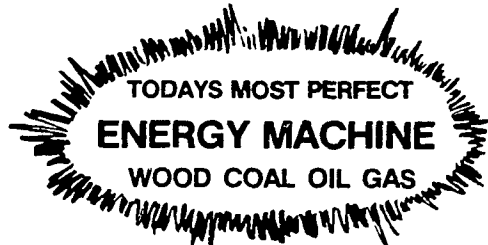
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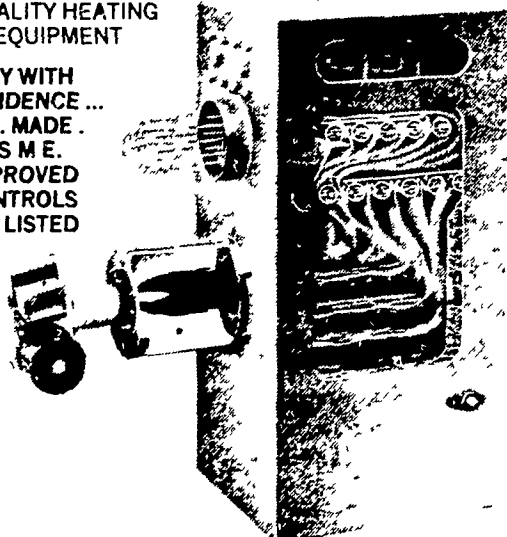
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