

# York potato growers discuss potato beetle, pyrethroids

**BY PATRICIA GREEK**  
Staff Correspondent  
**STEWARTSTOWN** — The annual York County Potato Growers meeting was held last Thursday, at the Centre Presbyterian Church, Stewartstown.

The morning session began with a panel discussion on the Colorado potato beetle, its effects and control. Panel members were Clair Flinchbaugh, Felton; Jack Thompson, Glen Rock; and Morg Price, York with County Agent John Smith acting as moderator.

According to Smith, the problem with the Colorado potato beetle started about two years ago, but really

became bad last year. At this point, York County received temporary emergency clearance for spray materials to help out.

The panel all agreed that without the pyrethroids they were allowed to use, the potato crop would have been ruined.

Stan Gesell, a Penn State entomologist then talked about where farmers stand on the use of synthetic pyrethroids.

Gesell stated that it will be more difficult this year to get any synthetic pyrethroids. The Environmental Protection Agency may not issue these three pyrethroids to many areas of the U.S.

Gesell stated that all potato farmers everywhere will need to write their Congressmen about these Pesticides. "We'll need all the support we can get," he remarked.

Next Gesell discussed how to use these Pyrethroids.

"Don't depend on them too heavily," he emphasized, "Don't use them any more than is necessary as there aren't any new pesticides coming along."

The most critical point for the potato plant is from blooming to three weeks after bloom or from late June till the end of July. Temic is an effective pesticide for good control till the end of June.

After the Temic runs out, two applications of Vidate, about one week apart work well.

Gesell stated that one aphid per leaflet in July is more critical to the potato plant than six aphids per leaflet in August. This is the time that the leaflets are just developing.

Next on the program was Richard Cole, also of Penn State, speaking on "Blueprint for the 80's".

According to Cole, potato growers should be attempting for quality yields and a fixed price. On the

whole, Pennsylvania potato growers have four major problems.

He said the first is cost of production is way too high. Growers need to utilize the inputs more for higher quantities and qualities.

Quality is another concern. The long-term chipping potato just simply isn't being grown in this area.

In production, growers are limited in production by several potato diseases and aphids.

Last, but not least, marketing in today's potato market is complex and unstable.

Cole quoted "This area of York and surrounding counties have 5500 acres of potatoes with a crop value of \$6.5 million per year."

Cole then discussed potato varieties.

Top yielding last year in the State were Kennebec, Buckskin, ND 8891-3, and Penn 71. Varieties with the top specific gravity and good chip color were Atlantic with a gravity of 1.087, BelRus, Belchip, and Norchip.

Concluding the meeting, was the election of two new directors. Elected were Lamar Newhouse and Marlin Brown.

## Davidsburg 4-H Club to meet

**DOVER** — The February meeting of the Davidsburg 4-H Club was held at the 4-H Center.

Dates to remember are: 4-H Auction - March 28, County Council - March 5, Family Night - March 15, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Demonstration Day - May 14, and next Davidsburg 4-H Club meeting - March 20.

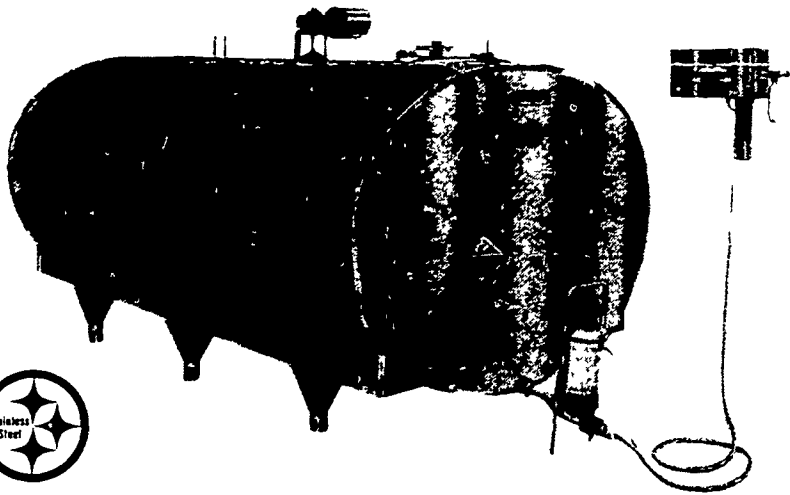
The club will be selling ham & cheese sandwiches. The Davidsburg Club will be helping the Thomasville Club with a petting zoo at the York Hospital Fete May 16-17. The club also voted to have another annual clean-up drive.

After the meeting, projects were explained: Foods, Joan Shermeyer;

Ceramics, Pat Rauhauser; Leathercraft, Emily Livingston; Handyman, Paul Eyster; Sewing, Eleanore Eyster; Knitting and Crocheting, Darlene Spahr; Gardening, Richard Spahr; Jean Painting, Painting; and Cake Decorating, Aileen Detter; and Pet Care and Livestock, George Livingston.

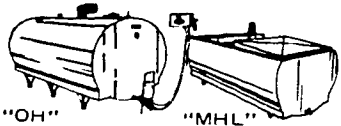
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