

Puerto Rico halts U.S. egg imports

SAN JUAN, P.R. — The Puerto Rican Department of Agriculture has suddenly halted the sale of imported eggs, leaving U.S. exporters and Puerto Rican importers with quantities of eggs in various stages of transit, and uncertain as to the extent and duration of the action.

Most troublesome as of this writing are shipments estimated at 11-15 trailer loads which are in Puerto Rican ports, having been denied entry, according to the United Egg Producers.

It was announced last week that importers were bringing eggs into the country without having the necessary permit, and that as of March 10 there would be no more imports.

According to some importers, permits had been properly applied for, but had not been issued to anyone since last year's permit expired December 31.

Importers said their Secretary of Agriculture had stated that no permits had been applied for but they

believed he had been misinformed on that point.

Meanwhile, U.S. producers with eggs prepared for export, including stamping, found themselves with the figurative rug pulled from under their feet. Also at issue will be the assumption of responsibility in the event that any eggs are reshipped to the U.S., which is currently the Puerto Rican Agriculture Department's position.

UEP, in cooperation with many state organizations, individual producers and departments of agriculture, is pursuing every available avenue to help solve the problem. They are working on both the immediate aspect of the disrupted flow of eggs and the longer-term consideration of trade restrictions.

Restrictions of imports are not a new problem with Puerto Rico, the importation of small eggs having been totally stopped many months ago. Of importance with respect to the import issue is the fact that attempts have been made over many years to stimulate increased production to Puerto Rico.

justice of allowing Puerto Rico to "unilaterally and without consultation ban a perfectly wholesome U.S. product from their territory."

District sells 53,000 seedlings

LANCASTER — More than 53,000 tree seedlings were sold during the sixth annual Lancaster County Conservation District tree sale which ended last Friday.

Some 1168 property owners paid \$19,000 for the seedlings, which will be delivered to Long's Park for pickup on the morning of April 12.

A spokesman for the district said the orders ranged all the way from a dollar for one hardwood seedling to one order for 1000 white pines.

White pine, in fact, was the most popular variety in this year's sale with 11,000 trees

ordered. Blue spruce was next with 10,400, followed by hemlock with 7700 orders. The most popular hardwood was red oak, with 2000 orders.

This year's dollar volume was up considerably over last year's \$12,000, but the number of trees sold fell short of the highest year when over 100,000 seedlings were sold.

The seedlings were supplied by three nurseries in Indiana County, except for the hemlocks which came from York County. Most of the buyers were reportedly small property owners rather than farmers or landscapers.

Money from the sale of the seedlings will be used by the district for programs and office equipment. The funds will also be used to pay for a week-long conservation camp at Camp Mack, near Schaefferstown. Last year's camp had 20 youngsters between the ages of 13 and 16 participating.—DW.



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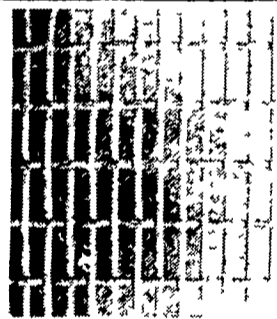
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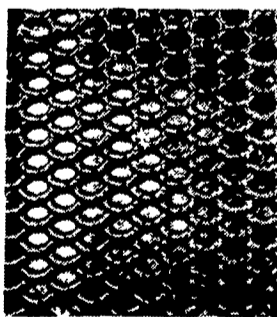
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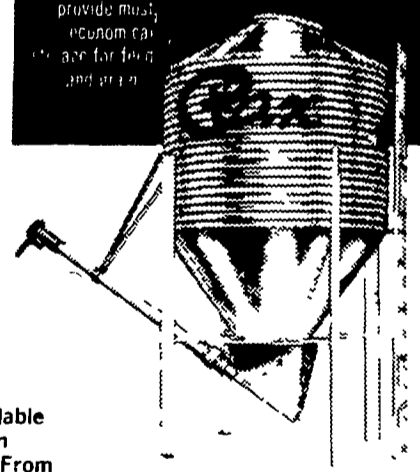


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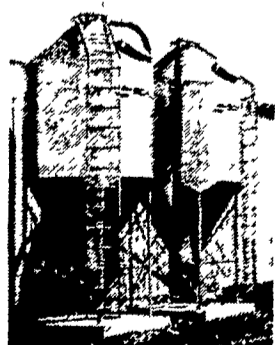
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