# NEMA members to weigh egg market outlook

LANCASTER — A post Easter evaluation of the egg market will have a key position on the agenda of NEMA's regional egg producers' conference set for 10:00 A.M. April 17 at the Continental Inn in Lan-

A three man panel chaired by Jay Irwin, Lancaster County Extension Agent as moderator, will present the market picture. NEMA's president, Al Wenger of Rheems, will cover the white egg sector while John Ricca of Billerica, Massachusetts, vice president of NEMA will report on market activity and outlook in brown egg territory. Cary Bradley, who heads U.E.P.'s statistical staff at Atlanta, Georgia will then wrap up the entire national egg scene.

In announcing the session, President Wenger emphasized that these are times of critical decision in the egg industry-a time when we can profit from a searching assessent of our market position.

Members will hear a report on a new service of U.E.P. that has drawn much attention from producers, the labor "hot-line."

This nationwide phone service offers the means to

deal with problems involving labor relations or interpretation of wage and hour regulations. By lifting his phone a member can contact an expert on these matters for advice and guidance.

Attorney George Isaccson of Augusta, Maine, who heads this service for U.E.P. will be on the conference program for an update on current problems and an outline of the right moves to make in meeting them

Frank Koebrich, newly named president and of Egg manager Clearinghouse at Durham, New Hampshire has also been invited to visit with the NEMA group. The services of Clearinghouse are being used more broadly than every here in the Pennsylvania "egg basket."

Koebrich's message should be of much interest in view of the depth of experience in marketing that he brings to his new post.

U.E.P. has, in the last several years, centered much of its attention in providing cost-cutting insurance service for its members. Beginning with an all risk program of fire insurance coverage now including property values

### Ask the VMD

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when selecting your gilts, you should study their weaning weights.

You should weigh the pigs at birth, and again, three weeks later when they are weaned. This tells you the sow's over-all ability to milk, which will be inherited by the gilt and should be selected for.

across the country totalling

in excess of half a billion

dollars, U.E.P has now

moved into the fields of

casualty and liability

coverage as well as work-

men's compensation and

Jack Shuford, a key ad-

ministrator in the UNEPRO

insurance program is slated

to review the new goals his

service will be targeting in

NEMA members will be

guests of the Association for

luncheon. Any flock owner

interested in more in-

formation about mem-

bership in NEMA and

U.E.P. can write to C.A.

O'Reilly, Secretary, Northeast Egg Marketing Association, 136 Harron

Avenue, Hightstown, N.J., phone 609/443-3490.

auto fleet coverage.

A good record-keeping system would identify: 1. the gilts of large litters, 8 to 10 or greater; 2. birth date; 3. abnormalities, such as hernias or cryptorchids; 4. sow's behavior; 5. sow's health, free from mastitis; 6. medications used; 7. farrowing duration, 2-4 hours or 6-8 hours; and 8. gilt's weaning weight.

When weaning the pigs at 3 to 5 weeks of age, the gilts should be screened, and those with any inversion of teats or less than twelve should be rejected. You should select two or three times the number of gilts you will need six to eight months later.

When gilts are at the 180 to 200 pound stage, they should be checked for back fat thickness, soundness, and the replacements should be thinned out so that you have 25 to 30 percent of the numbers needed for breeding.

These 25 to 30 percent will be removed from the fat pen and will be put on limited feed. Fenceline contact with a boar will allow you to observe these gilts for heat -- the ones that come into heat first will be given top priority.

At breeding time, which can be anywhere from 6 to 8 months depending on the growth factor of your animals and how frequently they have come into heat, you should have a minimum of 10 percent more than you need for breeding replacements. You should cull all gilts that are open after 28 days exposure to the

This breeding stock should be given a minimum of 30 days exposure to the feces of mature sows or boars reduce the SMEDI syn drome.

The selection of the replacement gilt should not be taken lightly. It is just as important as selecting a boar, and you can make just as many gains in your genetic background with a good selection of females.

To summarize, you need to start early, have good records, blood test new arrivals, have a minimum vaccination program, worm as needed, and find a way to market the squeal of the pig.

If you have a question you would like answered by the team from Valley Animal Hospital, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, PA 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.



## Goat Gang chooses council reps

FLEMINGTON, N.J. -The Goat Gang 4-H Club met recently at the home of Denise Robbi, Hopewell.

The change in the Flemington Fair 4-H Goat Show Rules was the main topic for discussion.

Representatives from the club for the upcoming Goat Council meeting are Chris Peck, Stockton and Margie Van Duyne, Sergeantsville. Reported by Margie Van

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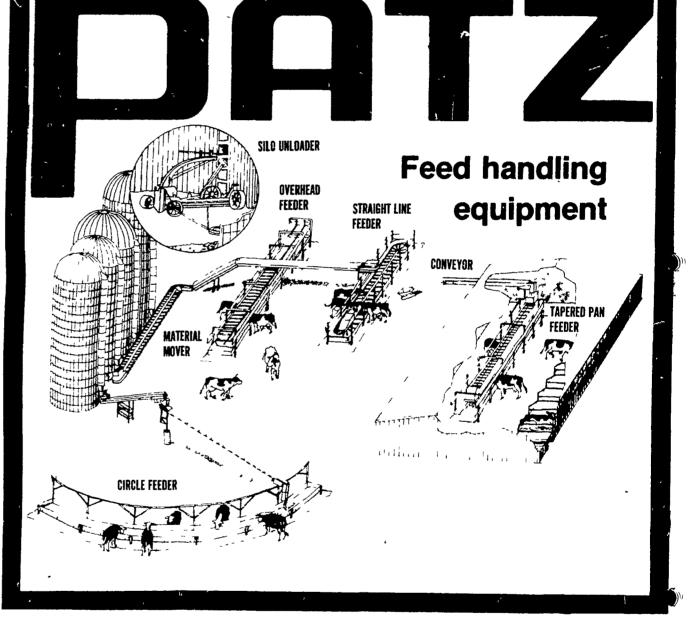
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