

April is Pa. Egg Month

BY SHEILA MILLER
HARRISBURG — April is officially Pennsylvania Egg Month.

In ceremonies at the Governor's Mansion on Wednesday morning, Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell read Governor Dick Thornburgh's proclamation to over 70 poultry people and friends of the industry.

Accepting the official proclamation from the PDA Secretary were Paul Fischer, President of the Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association, and John Hoffman, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.

This is the first time a month has been officially set apart in honor of the egg industry, although there have been similar informal designations in the past, said Hoffman.

In his March 24, 1980 proclamation, the Governor referred to the egg as one of nature's most perfect foods. He proudly announced Pennsylvania producers are ranked third in the nation in the production of table eggs, with 3.4 billion eggs with a

price tag of \$140 million attached.

The Governor also pointed out the egg's relative inexpense and nutritive value, stating egg prices have remained fairly stable for the past twenty years.

He proclaimed April as the Commonwealth's Egg Month so that people could become more aware of the value of this Pennsylvania product—part of the Pennsylvania Agriculture—We're Growing Better campaign.

There were plenty of puns at the Governor's brunch, with Deputy Secretary of Agriculture starting off the ceremonies with "We're 'egg'cited to be here".

Vicky Wass, the state's egg promotion specialist, told the group she has renamed the month of April to 'Egg'pril.

Even Eggatha, the mascot of the egg industry, cracked up at that idea.

On hand for the ceremonies was the American Egg Marketing Board's regional promotion coordinator, Valerie Heine.

Vicky Wass commemorated the day by giving Ukrainian eggs to

Ginny Thornburgh, the Commonwealth's First Lady. The beautiful hand-dyed eggs were also presented to Secretary Hallowell and Valerie Heine.

Bright yellow tee shirts, advertising the incredible, edible egg, were given to Ginny Thornburgh, Secretary Hallowell, and his two deputies, Chet Heim and Luther Snyder by Wass.

After the formal ceremonies got April Egg Month underway, the Governor's guests were invited to a brunch that featured quiche, a dish made with—what else—eggs.



John Hoffman, Executive Director of the Pa. Poultry Federation, center, and Paul Fischer, President of the Pa. Egg Marketing Assoc., right, accept the Governor's official proclamation for April Egg Month from Secretary Hallowell.

Egg month

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doctors are learning about nutrition by taking courses, and they're getting the proper information," Hoffman said. "Unfortunately, this hasn't filtered down to the general practitioners yet."

Fischer, who is an egg broker in Lancaster County, gave his idea of a complete breakfast for people on the go. "Take an egg and orange juice. Mix them in the blender and make an orange eggnog—it's complete, down to the Vitamin C." SM

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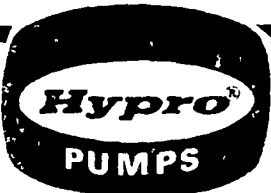
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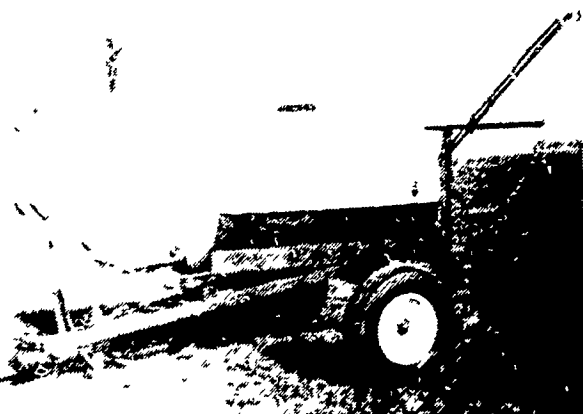
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