

## Cereal Research Center established at Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK — A Center for Cereals Research has been established at Penn State, with the goal of improving potential for production of small grains in Pennsylvania and the Northeast states region.

The center may be the first significant grouping of scientists from several expertise areas for a team approach to improving small grains grown under conditions of the region, according to Harold G. Marshall, coordinator of the center.

He is an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture with a joint appointment as adjunct professor of plant breeding at Penn State.

The general goal of the center is to improve grain yields and economic returns from small grains. Emphasis is on development and use of improved

varieties, intensive cultural practices, and integrated pest management systems. Researchers will be from the expertise areas of agronomy, plant breeding, plant pathology, weed science, crop physiology, entomology, and agricultural economics.

Marshall views the center as a partnership involving all interests of the small grain industry. It was established in 1979 under a cooperative agreement between Penn State and the USDA, operating from the department of agronomy with full and part-time personnel from both organizations. Additional assistance will be sought from the grain interests of the region.

While the partnership between Penn State and the USDA is an important step toward improving small grain yields, Marshall

emphasizes that support from grain producers, millers and feed dealers, and associated ag industries is essential for success of the program.

Marshall points out that the Northeast is a feed and food grain deficit area, and additional production in the Region would reduce expenses of transporting grain from other regions of the U.S.

Wheat has the potential to provide excellent cash returns to the producer if current yield limiting problems can be solved. The nearness to seaports puts the Northeast Region in an especially favorable location to capitalize on an increasing world demand for wheat.

"Small grains are the most neglected crops in the Northeast," Marshall says. "The potential for yield improvement is tremen-

dous." He estimates that millions of dollars are lost annually because of disease and insect pests, unfavorable environmental conditions and stresses unique to the area. Also responsible are improper management practices.

## Broiler placements up slightly

HARRISBURG — Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending April 5 were 2,202,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The placements were three percent above the corresponding week a year earlier, but two percent below the previous week. Average placements during the past nine weeks were four percent above a year

earlier. Placements in the 21 key

Most small grain production in this region is with varieties developed for conditions and practices of other areas — generally the mid-western states. Current interest and practices of other intensive management practices now merit varieties adapted

specifically to the region.

Team members see small grains as beneficial to the small farmers prevalent in Pennsylvania and the region. Many such farms need a cash crop or additional feed for animal enterprises.

poultry producing states were 81,429,000, two percent below the previous week and one percent below the same week a year earlier. Average placements during the past nine weeks were four percent above a year

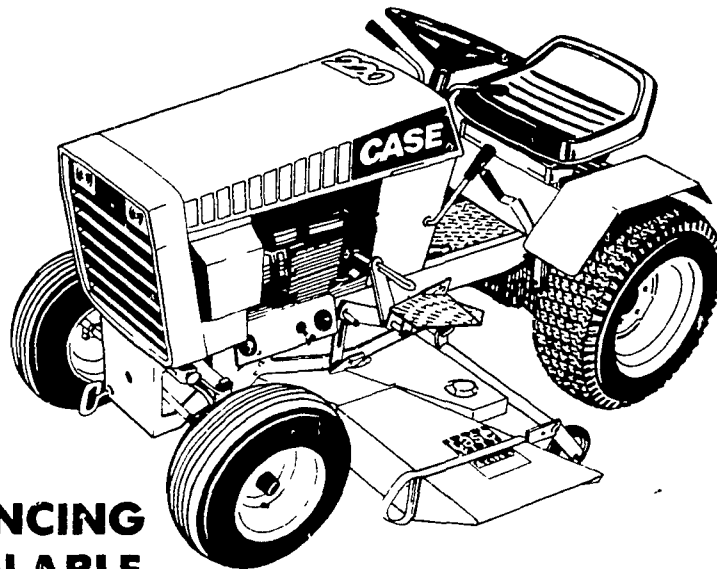
ago. Broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania under federal inspection during the week ending March 26 totaled 1,986,000, with an average liveweight of 4.12 pounds.

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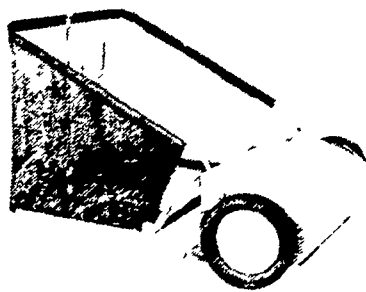


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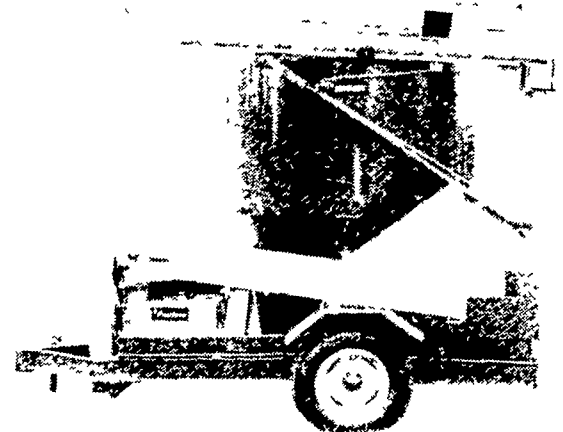
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