

Apple scab and X-disease Adams fruit meeting topics

BIGLERVILLE — Plant pathology research, the apple marketing referendum, pest control and pesticide safety were topics discussed when Adams County Fruitgrowers Association met last Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Penn State Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville. Association President George M. Peters, R2

Gardners, presided and introduced participants.

A pre-meeting tour of plant pathology research projects was directed by scientist-in-charge Kenneth Hickey and associates Richard Stouffer, Paul Mowery, graduate assistant Lorraine Berkett and Marek Wojtowicz, visiting fruit scientist from Poland.

The growers learned of a

detailed powdery mildew study, saw a computerized weather station capable of recording data in great details and reviewed the testing procedures for identifying soil-borne nematodes.

With the first mature apple scab spore in this area identified on April 15, growers were cautioned by Donald Petersen, extension plant pathologist, to have "both sides of apple trees protected with fungicide before the next rain."

Weather conditions in 1979 were favorable to this disease.

"There is an excellent supply of spores on old leaves", he added.

"Conditions have been perfect the last two weeks for aphid hatching" said Larry Hull, entomologist at the laboratory.

Noting that a large Rosy Apple Aphid population is expected, Hull announced supplemental labeling for special need in Pennsylvania

was granted Supracide 2E on April 16. For San Jose scale and rosy apple aphid, the material must be applied during the dormant or delayed dormant period and before any blossoms open.

"Green aphids present on trees now are the 'apple green aphid' which will leave the trees for another host plant at blossom to petal fall time" concluded Hull.

"How to handle chemical spills" was the topic for Win Hock, extension pesticides coordinator. He reviewed the approved procedures for transporting and mixing pesticides then listed agencies to be notified and emergency measures to take in event of a spill.

Hock called for all pesticides to be held in a locked storage that is well ventilated, dry and well marked including the statement "Pesticides - warning - fire will cause caustic fumes."

Visiting researchers from the Bureau of Plant Industry

of the Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg, David Benjamin and Al Wheeler outlined plans for a three-county survey of peach orchards this July and August to search for trees showing symptoms of X-Disease.

Discovered at four isolated locations in Adams County in 1979, the disease poses a threat to the local peach/nectarine orchards. Studies will include the vector leafhopper and the incidence of host choke cherry plants near peach orchards.

Plans have been finalized for the Apple Blossom Festival to be held on Sunday, May 4, 1980, from the South Mountain fairgrounds headquarters according to an announcement by David Garretson.

He urged growers and the public to support the Apple Blossom Queen Contest scheduled for the Bendersville Elementary School at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, 1980. Nine contestants will participate.

President George Peters announced that John Baugher, Jr. and the newly

selected Queen will appear on WGAL-TV, Lancaster on Thursday, May 1, 1980.

The summer fruit tour sponsored by the State Horticultural Society will visit Bedford, Blair and Centre counties on June 24 and 25, according to an announcement by County Agent, Thomas E. Piper.

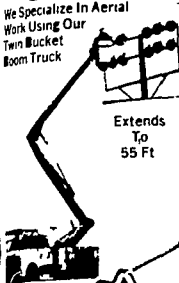
Piper reported that a group of fruitgrowers from France will tour in Adams County on June 2 and 3.

"Only those ballots received in the Department of Agriculture building, Harrisburg, by 4 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 1980, could be counted," said Guy Donaldson, President of the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Board and fruitgrower in the Fairfield area.

He reported how funds raised by the apple marketing order have been invested in research and promotion, reminding growers that "promotion is the key to success in the industry; this is the payoff".

Growers with 500 trees or more were eligible to vote in the referendum.

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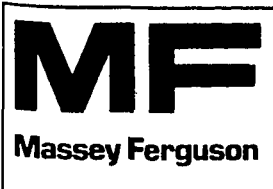
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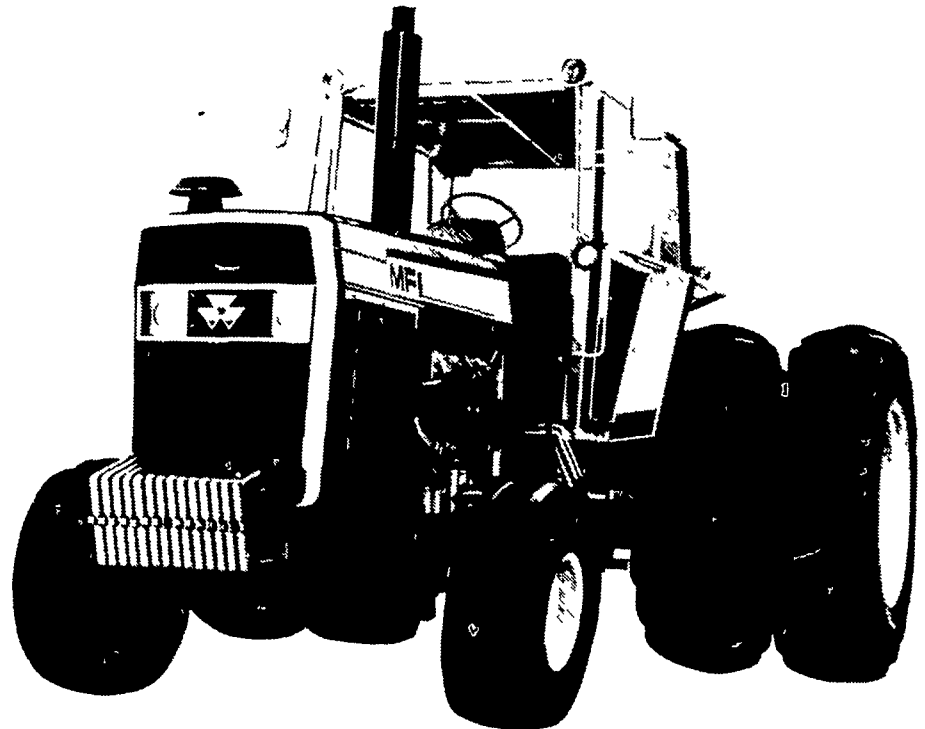
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