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Farmers hit hard by inflation program

UNIVERSITY PARK — There will be more than just belt tightening when the effects of Carter's new inflation fighting program hits farmers, says Penn State Economist Louis Moore.

Already faced with predicted losses of 20 to 25 percent in net income due to spiraling production costs, Pennsylvania farmers will face a new round of monetary battles as they compete for high interest loans they need to meet seasonal production costs.

"It used to be that banks would loan money almost automatically to farmers but now banks are much more selective," says Moore. Farmers are going to have to pay 15 to 18 percent for loans they negotiated last year for eight percent.

Moore cites the example of a farmer in 1978 who bought 200 head of feeder cattle and borrowed \$70,000 at an in-

terest rate of 7.5 percent. That year his interest cost him \$5,250.

This year that same farmer could only afford 150 head of cattle for around \$70,000 however, at 15 percent his interest amounts to over \$10,000.

A typical cow-calf operator could have purchased 60 head of bred heifers for \$18,000 in 1976 and borrowed the money at 6.5 percent or \$1170 dollars interest.

In 1980, 60 head would cost \$48,000 and the interest at 15

percent would be \$7200, over six times what it cost four years earlier.

No relief is in sight for the farmer for at least the next few months, since during the last few months consumer prices have risen at an annual rate of 17.2 percent.

AAMP asks change in slaughter regulations

ELIZABETHTOWN — American Association of Meat Processors has written to USDA asking for an immediate suspension of the portion of the humane slaughtering regulation that requires water to be provided at all times in holding pens.

The Association said that most industry representatives, veterinarians, and plant operators it talked to

also understood that in the proposal for the new regulation water would be required in pens after the animal was held there for 24 hours or more. Feed is also required after 24 hours.

AAMP pointed out that most animals do not drink strange water for at least 24 hours after arrival in the plants and that they are typically not in the pens for more than 8 to 12 hours.

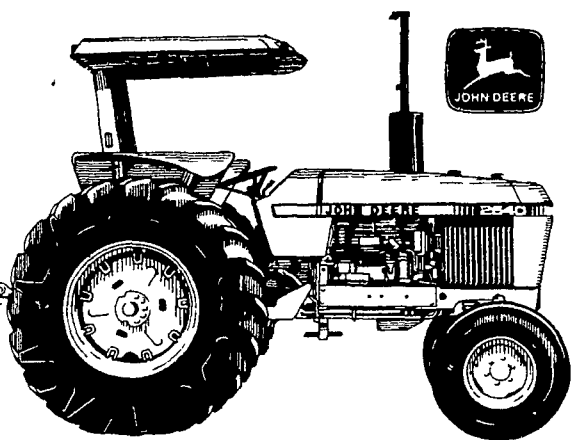
The Association said most pens in small plants are outdoor holding areas and that, if the Department enforces the regulation to require water at all times,

most of these small slaughtering plants will have to enclose the pen areas or provide heating systems to prevent the water from freezing in colder months.

Water in this area is normally not necessary and can pose a hazard for animals and plant personnel when it is splashed in cold weather since icing conditions can occur, AAMP said.

The Association called for a stay of enforcement of the water-at-all-times rule pending a review of the situation.

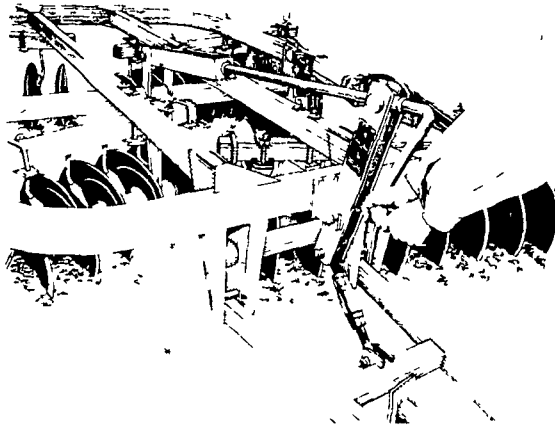
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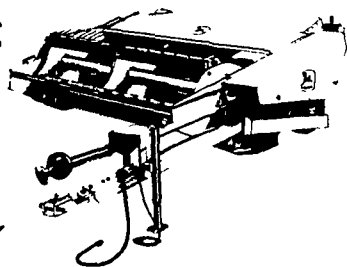
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Flea market planned

WILLOW STREET — The Willow Street Vocational Technical School will sponsor a flea market, Saturday, May 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Items to be sold include cutting boards, dog houses, gun cabinets, wheel barrels, "old fashioned" coal buckets and lamps, match buckets, scenic illustrations and fine art pieces, "art" memo pads, "free" permanents, wreaths, dried & silk flower

arrangements, and terrariums.

All proceeds will be donated to the Willow Street Fire Company Building Fund.

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