

Farmers slate D.C. bus-in to lobby against mushroom imports

NOTTINGHAM — The Pennsylvania Farmers Union will send a delegation of mushroom growers to Washington in an effort to reduce the impact of imported mushrooms on farm income in Pennsylvania according to Richard King of Nottingham, Chester County.

King, a mushroom farmer, is chairman of the "bus-in" which will take place June 3rd through June 5th.

Noting that Pennsylvania is the foremost mushroom-producing state in the

nation, King said mushroom growers from Chester, Berks and Lancaster counties would leave the Oxford Shopping Mall at six p.m. Tuesday, June 3rd by bus for Washington where the delegation will "make every effort to convince our congressmen that the influx of foreign mushroom is dangerously close to causing economic disaster for Pennsylvania's mushroom growers and processors."

John Kimble, President of the Chester County Farmers Union, urged all area mushroom growers and

processors to join the delegation to "point up the fact that we just can't fight the double attack of imports and the roads being made on the Pennsylvania mushroom industry by huge corporations from other states."

Kimble said mushrooms from Taiwan and Korea now account for over fifty percent of the market in the United States and added that in the recent past, nine of Pennsylvania's sixteen mushroom processors have gone out of business because of their inability to "compete

with cheap imports."

Kimble cited USDA's AID program which "encouraged Taiwan to get into the U.S. mushroom market in an important way" as another topic for discussion between the Pennsylvania congressional delegation and the farm group.

Kimble said anyone interested in participating in the bus-in should call him at 215/932-9051.

USDA to review several grain standards

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Public comments have been requested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the adequacy of existing U.S. grain standards for corn, soybeans and mixed grain.

Leland E. Bartelt, administrator of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, said the comments are being requested as part of a periodic review of all existing regulations.

"We evaluate the existing standards regularly to determine whether they are still relevant to the needs of the industry, and to determine whether more objective methods of evaluating grain quality may be incorporated into the standards," he said.

Bartelt said research and other current information suggest that some grading factors offer little information about certain end-use properties, and thus have limited value in determining grain quality and facilitating the

marketing of grain.

Factors in question, include the usefulness of assigning a grade on the basis of moisture, broken corn and foreign material, and test weight in corn and foreign materials in soybeans. However, FGIS solicits comments from interested parties on any grading factor for corn, soybeans, and mixed grain.

It is the intent of FGIS, in keeping with recommendations by Congress and an industry advisory

committee, to propose revision of standards of more accurately reflect end-use properties using objective means, whenever possible, Bartelt said.

The request for comments was published in the May 8 Federal Register.

Written comments may be submitted by July 7 to the issuance and coordination staff, room 1127 Auditors bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250. All comments will be available for public inspection.

Stoltzfus and Werner winners

ELVERSON — Two members of the Twin Valley FFA were top winners held in the Berks - Lebanon - Schuylkill Area FFA interview contest, held at Conrad Weiser High School.

Diane Stoltzfus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Houck, Elverson R2, placed first. Brenda Werner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Werner, placed second.

Each contestant had to fill out a job application, write a letter of application, and have a personal interview.

Diane was interviewed for the job of horse groomer; Brenda was interviewed for a horse trainer.

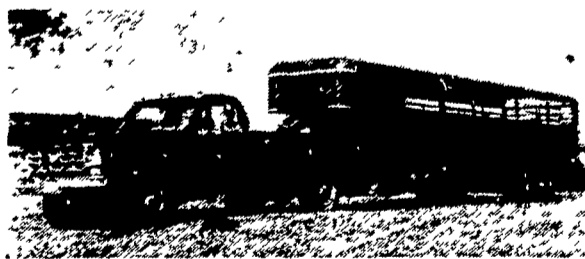
Also winning were: Melody Keller, Annville Cleona, third; Kathi Zohn, Lebanon, fourth; Robert Hogeland, Elco, fifth.

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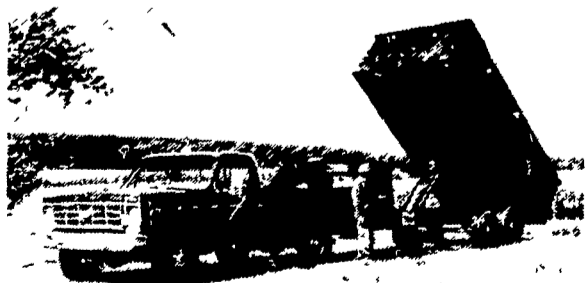
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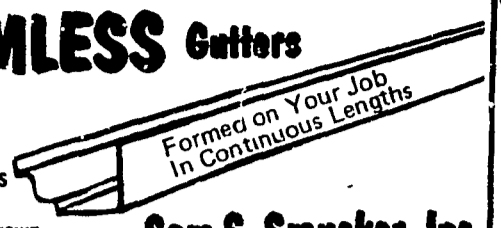


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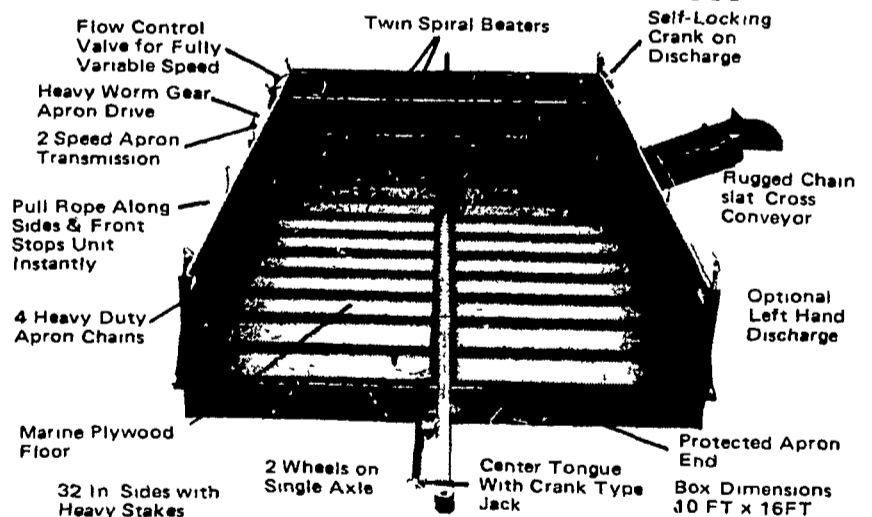
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