

Adams County fruit growers review spring orchard situation

ORRTANNA — Winter injury to peach trees, arrival of the gypsy moth, orchard inspection of fruit during harvest and pesticide re-certification were topics discussed at the second spring meeting of the Adams County Fruitgrowers Association held last Wednesday, at the orchard of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Woerner, Rt. 1, Orrtanna.

Meeting at 6:30 p.m., the growers were taken on tour of the Woerner orchard to see the 75 acres of apples, 25 acres of peaches and smaller plantings of cherries, pears, plums and raspberries. A tour was also made of the neighboring Rebert farm of El Vista Orchards where the growers saw 120 acres of mainly semi-dwarf apples on MM104, MM106, MM111 and EM7A rootstocks.

In his final appearance before taking out-of-state employment, Donald Petersen, extension plant pathologist from Penn State cited the pro-longed growing season in 1979 and the lack of winter snow cover as primary causes of death to peach trees planted in 1977 and 1978.

Wind-whipping and wet soil conditions may be associated with the problem which manifests itself by dead trunk tissue beginning

2 inches below soil line down to where the roots branch.

Reporting on apple scab, Petersen estimated that 25 to 50 percent of primary spores remain to be discharged at the next wetting period.

"Because insecticides are not applied in the orchard during bloom, the petal-fall spray becomes one of the most important sprays of the season on fruit trees" said Larry Hull, entomologist from the Penn State Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville.

He reported that Rosy Apple Aphids had been held in check by early sprays and good coverage.

Populations of white apple leafhopper, green fruit worm, green peach aphid and male adults of San Jose scale merit control measures now. Hull revealed that gypsy moth larvae are present in many Adams County orchards. Left uncontrolled, they are heavy feeders on apple leaves.

Warning that the growers' best efforts to produce top quality fruit can be destroyed in a moment by careless picking which bruises the fruit, Ed Stoner, Supervisor of Shipping Point Inspection, Federal-State Inspection Service, Chambersburg, invited

growers to consider hiring Federal-State inspectors for orchard supervision during harvest.

Details provided by calling Stoner at 717/263-2715.

"Proper disposal of pesticide containers means delivering 'triple-rinsed' and rendered useless' pesticide containers to the Adams County Sanitary Landfill in Tyrone Township near Aspers", said Donald Lott, Pesticide Inspector for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

This is the only DER-approved disposal site in Adams County and Lott warned that the Department of Environmental Resources will fine farmers who use sink holes and other unapproved sites for disposal of empty containers.

Lott reviewed the procedure for renewing pesticide applicator permits and signed certificates of training for some growers at the meeting.

"Motel reservations are due May 23 and tour reservations by June 9 for those who will participate in the Summer Horticulture Tour to Bedford, Blair and Centre Counties" said Thomas E. Piper, County Agent. Piper surveyed the group for interest in bus transportation and con-

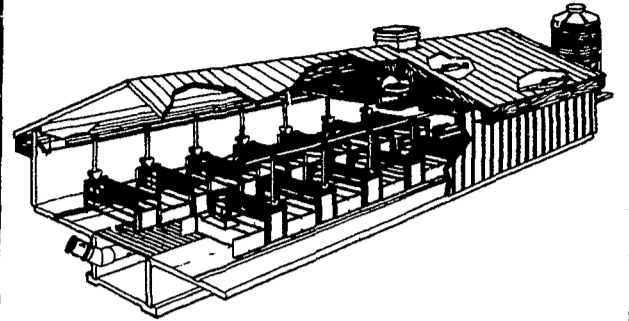
cluded that lack of interest ruled this out.

George Peters, President of the fruitgrowers, presided at the meeting. He thanked the growers for supporting a very successful Apple Blossom Festival, asked for support of the Apple Queen USA program and announced the next grower meeting for Wednesday, June 11, 1980, 6:30 p.m. at Worley's Nurseries, York Springs.

Refreshments at the meeting were provided by D and S Orchard Supply Co., R2, Biglerville.

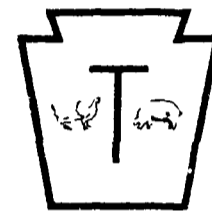


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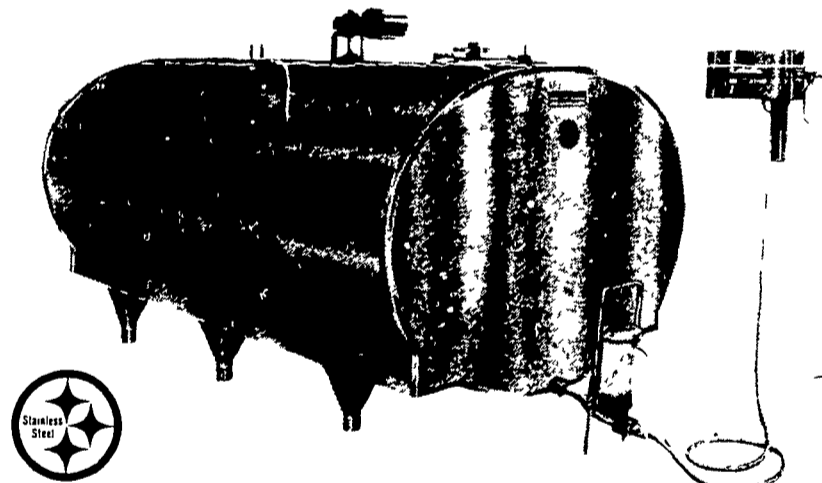
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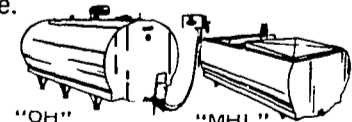
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