

17 ag research projects to share \$400,000

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hollowell has announced the approval of four new and 13 renewed agricultural research projects for the fiscal year 1980-81, totaling \$399,322.

The approval came from the nine member Agriculture Research Committee, with funding from a \$400,000 allocation from horse and harness racing revenues.

The Committee approved four new research projects whose initial funding totals \$135,080. Thirteen continuing research projects have been approved at a total of

\$264,242.

The new projects were discussed at an earlier meeting and were approved on May 15 in Harrisburg.

"Agricultural research becomes more valuable each year, with new developments in agriculture becoming a way for farmers to meet consumer demands for top quality products. Farmers depend on new developments to increase productivity, efficiency, and improved methods of health care for their livestock," Hollowell said.

Of the four new projects approved, two will be con-

ducted by The University of Pennsylvania, one by Penn State, and one by Penn State working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Governor's Energy Council.

Penn State received seven of the renewed research projects, The University of Pennsylvania received four, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture one, and the Centre County Cooperative Extension Association received one project which was increased from \$1,255 to \$2,125.

The budget for the Penn

State research project, "Development of Procedures for Evaluation of Soil Conditioners and Plant Growth Substances," was reduced from \$36,000 to \$18,280 by the University.

The four new agricultural research projects approved by a majority vote of the committee members are:

Increased efficiency in vegetable production, Penn State, a three-year project—\$24,000.

Economics of on-farm

alcohol production, Penn State and The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, a three-year project—\$45,000.

Swine Tuberculosis: an epidemiological and experimental study, The University of Pennsylvania, a three-year project—\$40,000.

Development of an automated serologic test system to monitor antibody in poultry. The University of Pennsylvania, a three-year project—\$26,080.

Members of the

Agriculture Research Committee are: Secretary Hollowell, chairman; Deputy Agriculture Secretaries E. Chester Heim and J. Luther Snyder; Bernard Hammer, Executive Secretary, Horse and Harness Racing Commission; State Senator Patrick J. Stapleton; Senator Frank J. O'Connell; State Representative Reno H. Thomas; and Representative Paul J. Yahner.

Potato pest handbook issued by Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK — With summer approaching, potato growers may be interested in a handbook entitled "Potato Diseases, Insects, and Weeds", published by the College of Agriculture at Penn State.

Intended for use throughout the Northeastern states, the handbook was written for potato growers and workers with the extension service of the state

universities, says David R. MacKenzie, co-author from the Department of Plant Pathology at Penn State.

It features 78 full-color illustrations on the most common pests which can damage potatoes. Individual descriptions of pest problems and a pest identification key make up the bulk of the handbook. It was printed in 1978.

Sized for taking into the

field to identify pests, it measures 5.5 by 10 inches on 88 pages. It contains a heavy cover and special stitched binding for durability.

Recommendations for pest control are included.

"Potato production is hindered by numerous diseases, insects, and weeds," MacKenzie declared. "With the proper use of cultural practices—while integrating pesticide usage with natural or biological controls—crop losses can be reduced," he affirmed.

"Potato Diseases, Insects, and Weeds" is available for \$4.25, tax and shipping included, from Box 6000, University Park, PA 16802. Make checks and money orders payable to The Pennsylvania State University. Allow at least two weeks for delivery.

The trend in potato production today, MacKenzie said, is toward integrated use of pesticides with management practices and biological controls such as beneficial insects. These techniques reduce pesticide applications as well as chemical costs and decrease contamination of the environment.

Knowledge of the pests of potatoes can help growers choose the right control practice, MacKenzie noted. Improper identification of pests is one cause of unnecessary pesticide use.

Montgomery to hold rabbit and cavy expo Saturday

TELFORD — The Montgomery County 4-H Center, Lansdale, will be the site of a 'hoppening' Saturday, June 7 when the Extension Service, Furry Friends 4-H Club, and the Montco Rabbit and Cavy Association sponsor a rabbit and cavy expo.

Starting at 9 a.m. with breakfast available at 7:30 a.m., the day-long event will include experts on rabbit and cavy care.

At 9 a.m., John Harkness of Penn State will talk on diseases of rabbits, Jamie Graybeal on opportunities for youth in 4-H and ARBA, and George Long on cavy care.

At 10 a.m., Herb Jordan, Penn State will speak on money, marketing and management, a youth rabbit and cavy bowl contest will be held, and ARBA slides will be shown.

At 11 a.m., Walter Kennet will speak on rabbit

nutrition, and at 1 p.m. Harkness will speak on diseases.

A judges' conference will be held from 1-4 p.m. Displays and booths will be open all day. In addition, there will be a charcoal rabbit barbecue. For more information contact Jamie Graybeal 215/234-4642.



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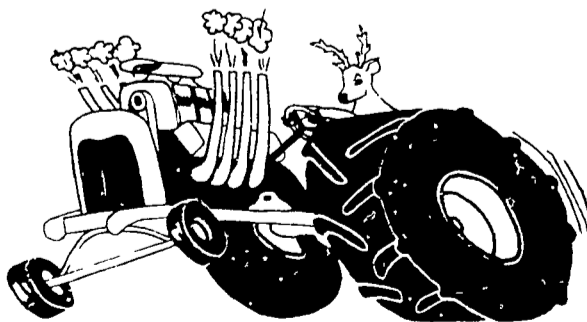
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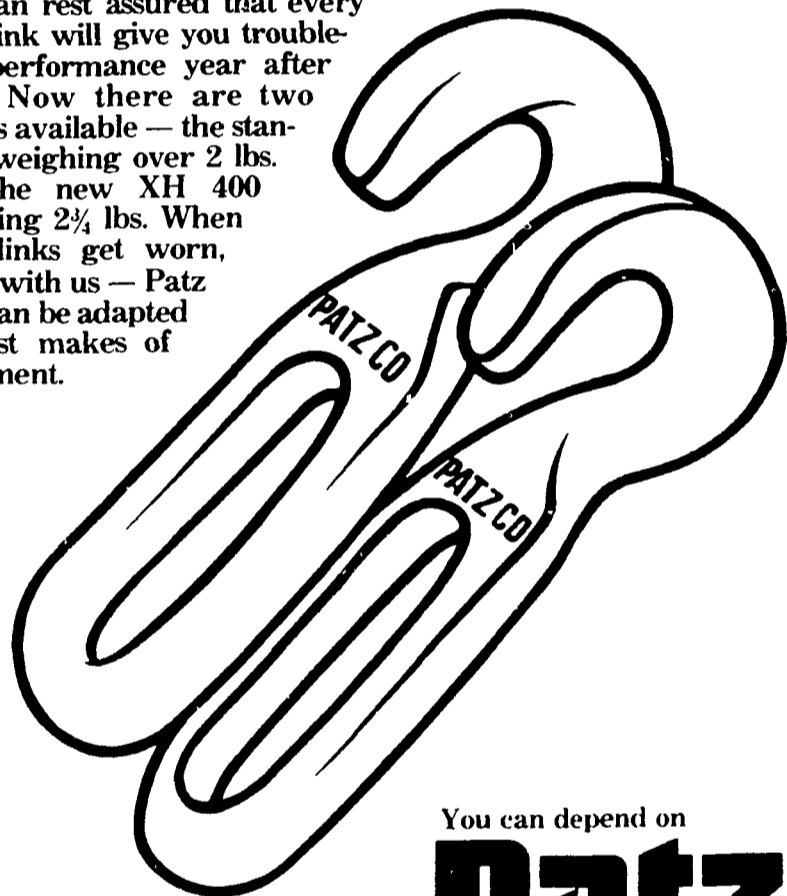
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