

8 champion cows killed in storm

BY VIVIAN PAUL
Staff Correspondent

EASTON — The Reserve Grand Champion female of the 1980 Pennsylvania State Holstein Show was among eight cows killed Saturday night when they were apparently struck by lightning

during a severe thunderstorm.

The animals were owned by Donald Seipt and family of Keystone Farm, the top herd in Northampton County.

"We heard several close cracks, but never gave it a

second thought," said Geraldine Seipt.

Mrs. Seipt discovered the cows the next morning. She went into the pasture when she noticed several animals had not come into the barn.

"I saw them lying under a tree. When I realized they weren't moving, I ran back



Eight cows in the top Northampton County dairy herd were killed Saturday by lightning. Included was reserve grand champion at Pennsylvania Holstein Show in April. She's Keystone Tippy Joni, who took first place in three-year-old cow category and then was named reserve grand champion of show. She's shown with owner, Donald V. Seipt, of Keystone Farm, R 4 Easton.

Assistant agent named

LANCASTER — Michelle Ann Skiles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Skiles, of Narvon, began an assignment this week as an assistant Extension agent for home economics on the

Lancaster County Extension Service staff.

In her new position, she will be responsible for an informal educational program for adults and

youth in all areas of family living.

She has served as a summer assistant in the county extension office for three summers while a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

She holds a bachelor of science degree in home economics education from Indiana, where she was on the Dean's List four years.

At Indiana University, Miss Skiles was a member of Campus 4-H, the Home Economics Association, Kappa Omicron Phi, the Inside-Out singing group and the Coalition for Christian Outreach.

into the barn to see which stalls were empty. I couldn't believe it."

Keystone Tippy Joni, a Fond Matt granddaughter, had won her title April 10 in Harrisburg over a field of 38 three year olds.

She had scored 88 as a two year old.

"We probably feel the worst about Joni," Mrs.

Seipt said. "She was the type of individual you don't often find... a real show cow."

The other seven cows all had promising futures, Mrs. Seipt said. They were all young. Three were three-year-olds, unblemished, and all bred, several to top bulls.

Three were Elevations, and one of those was a

daughter of last year's state four-year-old leader for milk.

Sixty milking cows were in the pasture at the time of the storm. No others were affected.

Mrs. Seipt said the animals are insured.

"You always have some cows you want to cull," she said, "but not that way."



Michelle Ann Skiles is the new assistant Extension agent for home economics in Lancaster County.

The U.S. dairy industry produced more milk last year than in any year since 1965. Milk production in 1979 totaled approximately 123.6 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent or 2.0 billion pounds from 1978.

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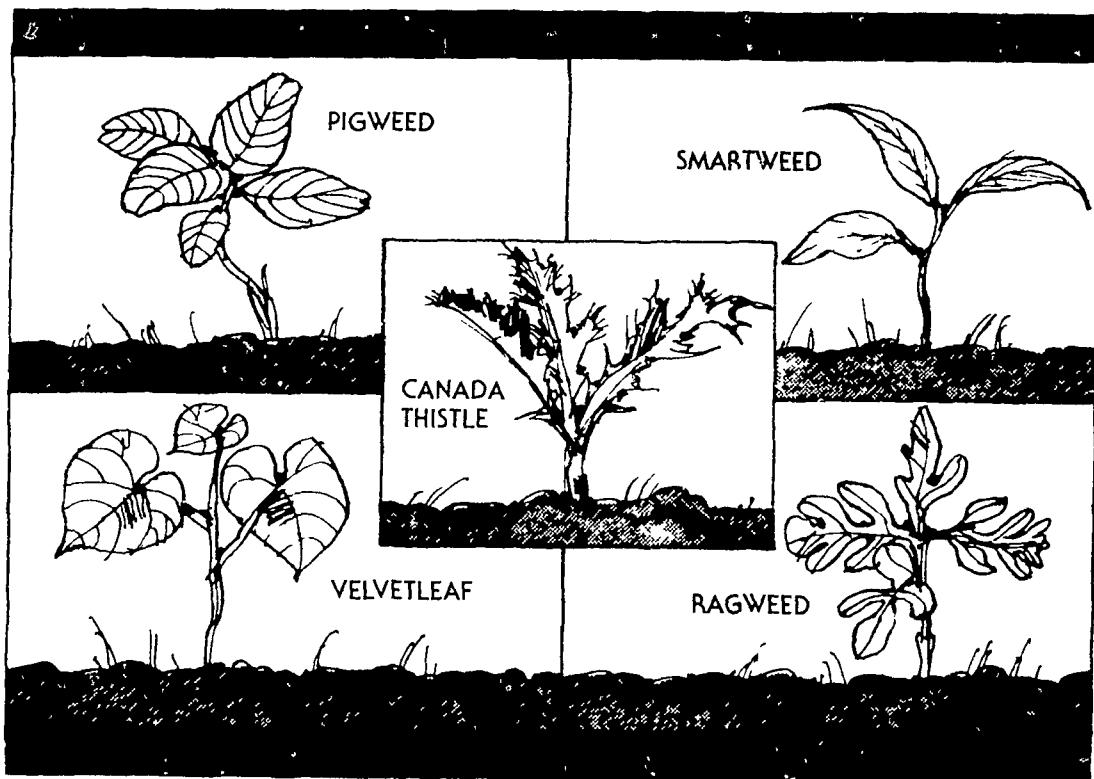
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