

Ag Secretary testifies for mushroom growers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell testified Monday before the United States International Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Pennsylvania canned mushroom industry.

Hallowell's testimony was in support of a petition by the American Mushroom Institute calling on the USITC for a tariff adjustment for imported canned mushrooms.

Hallowell noted that Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh has directed him to express "our concerns over serious declines in production in the industry." He told the Commission, "I strongly recommend that this Commission recognize the importance of the survival of the mushroom industry, to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to the nation as a whole, by

recommending to the President effective and timely relief.

"Serious injury has been done to the domestic canned mushroom industry. Over one-third of all domestic plants have closed in the last ten years," Hallowell said. "Serious injury has been done to the 50 percent of the work force who have lost their jobs. These factors are clear evidence that the mushroom industry is being injured and deserves relief." Pennsylvania dominates national production with

approximately 70 percent of the nation's total canned mushrooms.

However, since 1967, imports have doubled their share of the national canned mushroom market, from 25 percent to more than 50 percent. Imports of mushrooms relative to domestic production have jumped from 65 percent to 139 percent in just four years (1975-1979).

Employment in the domestic canned mushroom industry has dropped from

1,780 in 1970 to approximately 900 in 1979, one-half of the total mushroom processing work force.

Likewise, the number of domestic mushroom canners has declined from 35 companies to 22 in the past ten years. An inability to operate at a reasonable level of profit has forced many of these companies out of business.

Three canners in Pennsylvania were forced to shut down in 1979, two of which were located in Chester County.

Hallowell told the USITC that the effect of the loss of production capability cannot be measured on the countless other businesses, from farm supply companies to banks and restaurants, that deal directly or indirectly with the mushroom industry.

He told the Commissioners that the resultant loss of jobs will continue to have an adverse effect on surrounding communities unless some relief can be granted to offset the troubles in the mushroom canning industry.

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Berwick co-op to hold meeting

BERWICK — The Berwick Vegetable Cooperative will host its membership and area farm leaders on the occasion of its Twenty-Seventh Annual Dinner Meeting, June 14, 1980, at the Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech School, R5, Bloomsburg.

The Cooperative's guest speaker of the evening will be Ruth Hand, home economist, Schuylkill County Extension Service.

Hand earned a B.S. Degree in Home Economics from Mansfield State College. She taught a course in Home Economics in the High Schools of Schuylkill County prior to her present responsibility with the Extension Service. She is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in 1960 from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction and the Distinguished Service Award in 1978 from the

National Association of Extension Home Economists.

The evening's activities will begin with Registration at 6 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m., and Hand's address entitled "The Upbeat Attitude" at 8 p.m.

Berwick Vegetable Cooperative was founded twenty-seven years ago to provide a produce marketing service and a farm supply purchasing service to the vegetable and potato growers of several counties surrounding Berwick.

BVC now services producers in 22 counties of Northeastern Pennsylvania and three counties of Western Pennsylvania.

This annual event attracts many State Legislatures, Cooperatives Extension Service dignitaries, and agri-business leaders of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Adams farmers

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yet released for use by the practitioner."

So what can the farmers of the Adams County area do to solve their anaplasmosis problems?

As one veterinarian commented, "It's facetious to think we can control the disease by controlling the vectors."

With the deer herd population on the National Park Battlefield holdings, even if all the domestic herds were free of anaplasma marginale, the flies and ticks could still carry the disease from infected deer populations to healthy cattle, goats, and sheep.

The spread of the disease through human error can be stopped if farmers practice sanitary techniques when using hypodermic needles and other instruments on their livestock. Needles

should not be used on more than one animal if there is a possibility of a reactor in the herd, and other equipment should be carefully disinfected after each use.

If an animal has been positively diagnosed as having anaplasmosis, it can be treated, under a veterinarian's supervision, with tetracycline.

Vaccinating the herd is another possibility that will require the farmer's investment of time, money, and production loss.

In summing up the current feelings on anaplasmosis, one veterinarian said, "It seems the feeling in Harrisburg is that this is not too serious a problem—it only involves primarily Adams County. But once cattlemen and associations lose enough animals and raise enough hell, they'll get more research and money spent."

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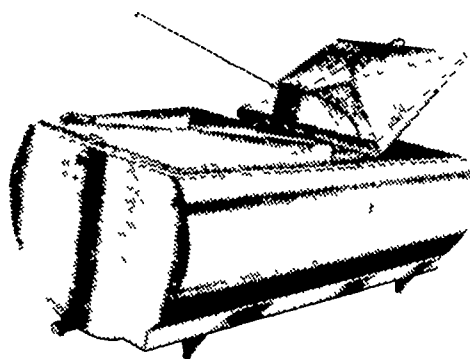
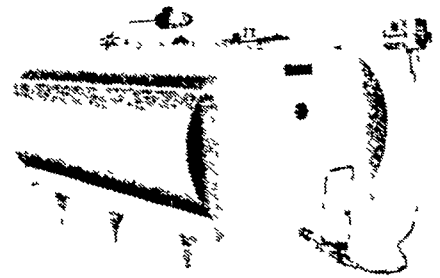
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