

Hallowell urges quotas on mushroom imports

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell Tuesday urged U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to recommend adoption of quantitative restrictions on the import of mushrooms in light of recent rulings by the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Hallowell, in a letter to Bergland, said, "The time has come for the federal government to take action on

behalf of its constituent industries. I strongly urge you recommend to the President that he considers the minority opinion of the USITC ruling of August 6, which calls for quotas on the import mushrooms for a five-year period, beginning with 78 million pounds for the first two years, and escalating at a 9.7 percent annual rate for the subsequent three years."

Hallowell told Bergland that the minority report

would be the only action which might assure the domestic mushroom industry of a period of stability in which to rebuild and regain its strong position in the agricultural economy.

Should the President fail to approve the minority report, he urged that, "He, at the very least, accept and approve the majority opinion and a three-year quota on mushroom imports."

The Agriculture Secretary noted Pennsylvania is the mushroom capital of the nation.

"Our 350 growers and the dozens of mushroom processors annually account for \$250 million in direct sales," he said. "Approximately 5680 Pennsylvanians are employed on the state's family-owned mushroom farms, and the mushroom processing industry adds several hundred

employees to this figure."

But he added, "In recent years, the relative position of the Pennsylvania mushroom industry has suffered at the hands of imported mushroom products. Employment by mushroom processors has dropped by 50 percent in the last eight years, and the number of canners involved in the industry has been reduced by more than one-third. The effects on the entire economy has been severe, especially in southeastern Pennsylvania. It is unforgivable that our mushroom industry is forced to close its doors while domestic consumption is increasing."

Hallowell said the U.S. government has, in effect, been subsidizing the foreign mushroom industry for decades — initially by providing technical

assistance to foreign growers, and more recently through its inaction in meeting the threat to the domestic industry from foreign markets.

He noted the ITC majority opinion, which calls for a three-year period of global quotas on mushroom imports at an initial rate of 84 million pounds, would "at best, provide minimal relief

for a short period of time."

Hallowell said Bergland would be making recommendations to the President prior to a decision on adoption of the ITC recommendations.

A final decision must be made before October 10, 1980. Similar rulings by the U.S. International Trade Commission in recent years have been rejected.

Mastersonville 4-H

(Continued from Page C33) plants, cooking, rocketry and a community horse club project.

Ruth credits the leaders for the club's success, and is obviously proud of the way they accepted their responsibilities. At the second meeting of the club which was to be election of officers, Ruth was in Germany through the Friendship Force Exchange program. Her leaders went ahead without her and the officers were elected and carrying out their duties when she returned.

"Most of the leaders had some limited experience in 4-H as members themselves. Furthermore, most of them have agreed to serve next year, and I think that's a good sign," Ruth says.

Reflecting on the past few months, Ruth says, "I'm glad I got involved in it. I really felt good about it when it was over." The club was unusually active from the beginning, and Ruth proudly notes that they had three grand prize winners at the County Achievement Day

including one in ceramics, cake decorating and sewing. Furthermore, the Mastersonville Club had three contestants in the county talent contest, including two finalists, and two queens in that contest.

Ruth said many parents have expressed their appreciation for the 4-H club, saying, "It gave the children something to do." She agrees that the experience was beneficial for all concerned. "I think it is good experience for them in leadership in the offices. It is helpful for them to be in charge of a group and to be a part of a smaller group. The leaders benefitted too by seeing the children achieve and do well. They gain satisfaction from accomplishing something."

Her goal for the club's second year will be to expand the number of projects offered. But with the enthusiasm of the youngsters, she feels another letter to the school will not be necessary. The Mastersonville 4-H Community Club is now well-established.

Grange meeting dates

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — The 114th annual session of the National Grange will be held in Cedar Rapids, Ia., Nov. 10 to 16. The Grange will be the first major farm organization to meet following the Presidential election.

Edward Andersen, Master of the National Grange, said "No matter who is elected, the resolutions our delegates will be debating will reflect the everyday grass roots concerns and attitudes of farmers and people in rural communities."

Andersen said while agriculture is the Grange's primary concern, "it is not one-dimensional."

He said "Rural citizens are also consumers, tax-

payers, property owners and businessmen: They are just as affected by high inflation, taxes and interest rates as their urban neighbors."

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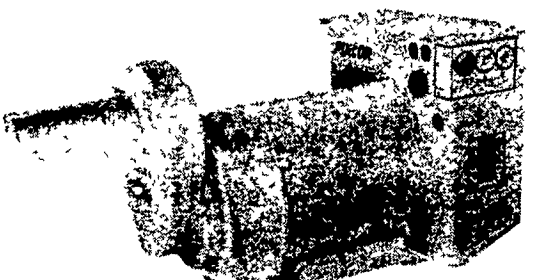
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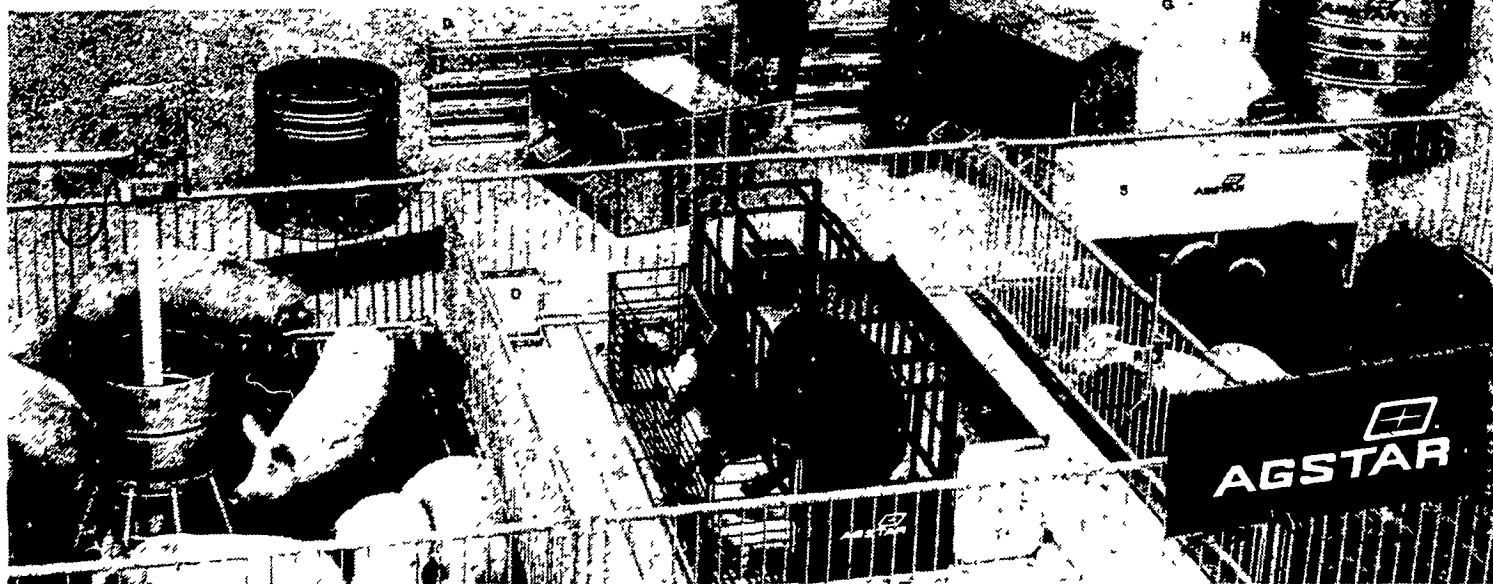
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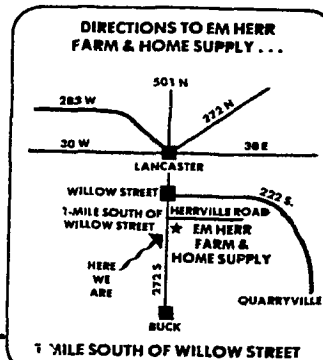


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