

Griest named outstanding FFA boy

HONEY BROOK — Howard E. Griest III, 18, will receive a \$100 Savings Bond on Thursday, October 16, for being recognized as the outstanding FFA boy from Berks County in conjunction with the 1980 Reading Fair.

To achieve such an award he had to be outgoing in his particular field of

agriculture, and a 1980 Keystone Award Winner.

Howard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Griest Junior of R.D. #1, Honey Brook. Howard is a 1980 graduate of Twin Valley High School and an outstanding member of the Twin Valley FFA Chapter.

Howard has been involved

in FFA activities since becoming a Greenbacker in 1976. As a freshman, he participated in the field corn test plot project, Food for America presentations to elementary students, Banquet planning committee, Pumpkin contest committee, and Berks County Leadership Training

conference.

In tenth grade Howard served as Vice-President of the Twin Valley chapter and as chapter delegate to the county organization. He expanded his projects by increasing his corn acreage and adding a beef heifer.

In eleventh grade, Howard was elected President of the

Twin Valley Chapter and Vice-President of the Berks County Association. He placed fourth in the Conservation speaking contest this year, and was the President on the chapter parliamentary procedure team in both the county and area contest.

He placed first in both the county tractor driving and agronomy contests, and won second place in the state salesmanship contest. He also increased the scope of his beef fattening, dairy heifer, and field corn projects.

As a senior, Howard again was elected President of the Twin Valley chapter, and was also elected Berks County FFA President. He placed first in the county

tarm management contest, and served as President of the Twin Valley Chapter of National Honor Society.

At the Berks County FFA Banquet he was named Berks County Star Farmer. He again won the right to participate in a state FFA contest-extemporaneous public speaking. He was first in the county extemporaneous speaking contest, second in the area contest, first in the Eastern Pennsylvania contest, and ninth in the state.

Following graduation from Twin Valley High School in June, Howard assumed increasing responsibilities on his parent's farm. His immediate goal is to establish his own dairy herd.

10 counties to be checked for golden nematode

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, have begun a survey of Pennsylvania potato acreage to detect the presence of the Golden Nematode.

The nematode is one of the most dangerous pest threats to the potato industry.

The Golden Nematode, a parasitic worm, has long been a serious pest in northern Europe, but has also been detected in New York State. The pest was first discovered on Long Island in the 1940's and was contained on Long Island until 1967 when it was detected in inland New York State.

The detection and control program of the New York

State Department of Agriculture and USDA have confined the spread of this pest to a few sites in inland New York. In November 1979, however the Golden Nematode was found in a New York State location only 20 miles from Pennsylvania.

Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell said, "This Golden Nematode surveillance program may be a key to protecting Pennsylvania potato land from the pest. Commencing in 1980, potato fields in 10 counties will be sampled: Bradford, Cambria, Crawford, Erie, Lycoming, Mercer, Potter, Somerset, Tioga and Warren Counties."

"Every potato grower can aid in the detection effort by reporting symptoms of

Golden Nematode to the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry or to their county agents," Hallowell said.

Symptoms of Golden Nematode infestation include stunting of plants, usually in very small areas in a field, but spreading over a period of years. The predominant spread pattern is in the direction of cultivation.

The Golden Nematode passes through its egg, larval and adult stage in 38 to 48 days. Up to 500 eggs are contained within fertilized females dead bodies, which are known as cysts. Each cyst is smaller than a pinhead and resists drying and some chemicals.

The cyst is a major means

of both short and long distance spreading of the pest. As the number of cysts in an effected field grows, the task of spread in soil accompanying potatoes and equipment grows apace.

Containment of the Golden Nematode has traditionally relied on soil fumigation, no host crops or a long rotation between crops susceptible to the nematode, and strict sanitation measures such as cleaning equipment when moving from infested areas.

Several potato cultivars such as Atlantic, which are resistant to Golden Nematode have been developed for adoption in Pennsylvania. Those new restraint varieties offer a new tool that promises to help contain this serious potato pest.

Exotic Newcastle found in three more states

LITITZ — Oregon, Nebraska and Georgia have been added to the list of states where exotic Newcastle disease has been found in cage birds, a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian said today.

Jerry Mason, who is directing eradication efforts for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the virus disease of poultry and other birds has now been diagnosed in 17 states. The other 14 states are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, and Vermont.

"We've had about 425 federal and state veterinarians and other animal health technicians working out of five regional task forces to eradicate this outbreak," Mason said. "So far, we've humanely destroyed approximately 20,775 infected or exposed birds at 434 locations to eliminate the disease agent. Owners will be paid over \$386,000 to compensate for these losses," he said.

To date, exotic Newcastle disease has been diagnosed in 48 premises. Each of these was placed under federal

quarantine to make sure they are kept free of birds until there is no more danger of the virus remaining on the premises.

"Some premises, constructed with impervious surfaces that were easily cleaned and disinfected, have already been released from quarantine," Mason said.

"However," Mason said, "there are still several hundred samples from all over the United States being tested at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories at Ames, Iowa. Until we get the results of these tests, we won't know

for sure how much further the disease has spread.

"There has been no spread into commercial poultry," Mason said. "With the bulk of tracebacks on bird sales completed, we feel more assured that this outbreak has been stopped before it could damage our egg and poultry supply."

Exotic Newcastle disease does not affect people who eat eggs and poultry, but the disease can cause tremendous losses even in vaccinated chickens and turkeys, and the cost of these losses would be passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices, Mason said.

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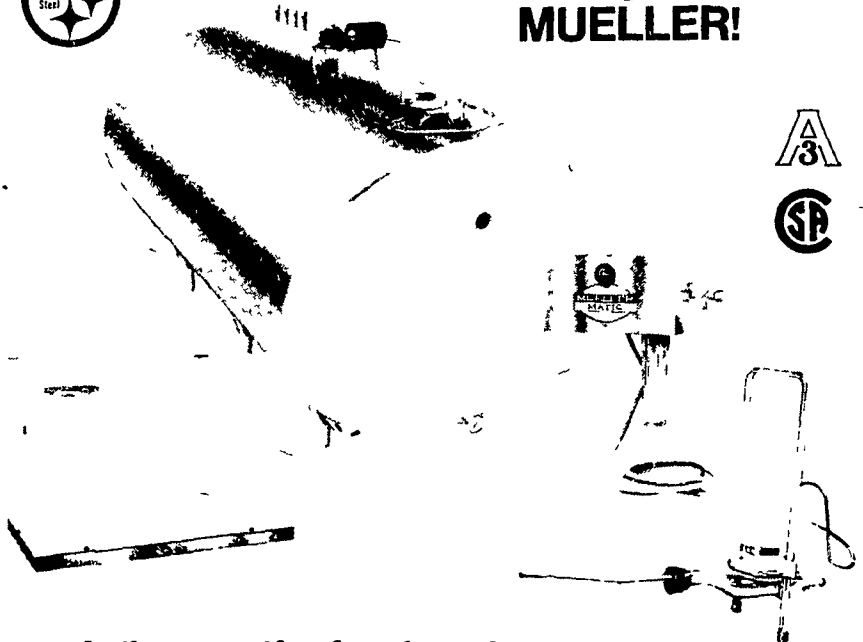
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