

## Ag leaders discuss drought aid

HARRISBURG — Officials of the Agriculture Department recently met with the leadership of legislative committees on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and with representatives of the state's major farm organizations. These meetings were held to discuss possibilities for state action to provide assistance to farmers affected by the drought.

Many Pennsylvania farmers have suffered substantial economic losses due to the severe lack of rainfall.

"Many more face continued losses into the 1981 crop year. We are actively pursuing methods at the state level to assist Pennsylvania farmers who have suffered these losses," Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell said.

"In many ways, farmers face critical cash flow problems due to the seasonal and timely nature of farming operations. Farmers who lose crops due to this summer's drought may need assistance by next year's planting time, to prevent being forced out to business," Hallowell said.

He noted the meetings had been important in that the

agricultural leaders had recognized the problems facing Pennsylvania farmers and had agreed to work together to seek assistance at the state level.

Discussion at the two meetings centered on possibilities for programs which would be conducted at the state level, over and above current federal programs.

"While the emergency

programs of the USDA are important, most farmers are not eligible for insured loans at five percent interest. In many cases, farmers are able to save money, by applying for loans at their bank or other conventional source outside the USDA assistance program," Hallowell said.

"A program on the state level might provide

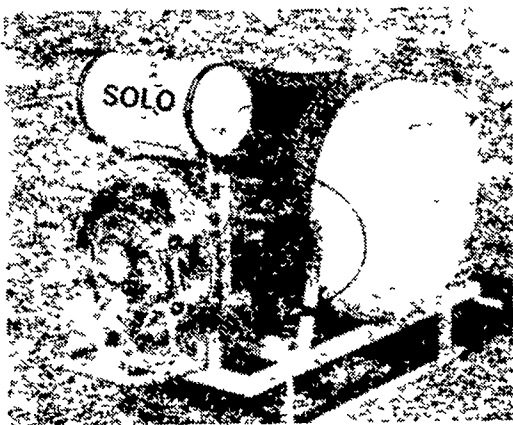
assistance to drought-stricken farmers by reimbursing them for a percentage of the actual loss. We don't need another lending agency and bureaucracy at the state level, but all segments of the farm community do want to see action which might lessen the economic blow from the drought," Hallowell said.

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## Ask the VMD

Leon Riegel



Tim Trayer



Edgar Sheaffer

If you have a question you would like answered by the team from Valley Animal Hospital, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, Pa. 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

A reader asks:  
Could you please discuss some recommendations for the control of wool maggots?

Dr. Riegel comments:  
Wool maggots, also known as blowfly strike, fleece worms, and Fliegenlar-

venkrankheit, are caused by flies of the genus Phormis or genus Lucilia.

The flies lay eggs on an area of the sheep's body where the wool is wet or spoiled with feces, urine, wound exudates, or other body secretions.

The eggs hatch in 12 to 24 hours and develop into full grown larva in 3 to 6 days. These larva then feed on excretions from the skin which are produced by enzymes secreted by the maggots.

For the control of wool maggots, two regimes can be used. One is the elimination of the optimum place for the flies to lay their eggs, and second is the use of insecticides.

The most common area of the sheep to become spoiled is the breech, or buttocks area. Some of the things which cause this soiling are improperly docked tails, extra long wool (especially

in ewes around lambing time), and some of the Australian breeds have wrinkles in the skin of the breech area.

What can be done to control these situations? Make sure the length of the tail is such that the end is just below the tip of the vulva when docking is done. Clipping breech wool just prior to lambing. And, in breeds where wrinkly skin in the breech area is a problem, eliminate these wrinkles by a surgical procedure.

In areas where wool maggots are a serious problem, the use of insecticides should be employed.

Apply approved insecticides in the breech region and over a strip 6 to 8 inches wide from rump to poll.

Consult your local veterinarian for the type of insecticide to use.

## Sheila's Shorts

(Continued from Page D16)

Stoltzfus, R.D. Bird-In-Hand, PA 17505 and explained that Stoltzfus had the local dealership. His business is located north of Mascot along Rt. 772. Since he is Amish, he has no telephone so all correspondence must be handled through the mail.

If, Mr. Zoon, you were

looking at the windmills as a method for harnessing the wind to generate electricity, you may want to contact a Berks County business.

Terrance A. Mehrkam, of Mehrkam Energy Development Co., R2 Box 179-E, Hamburg, PA 19526, has information and windmills designed for energy production.

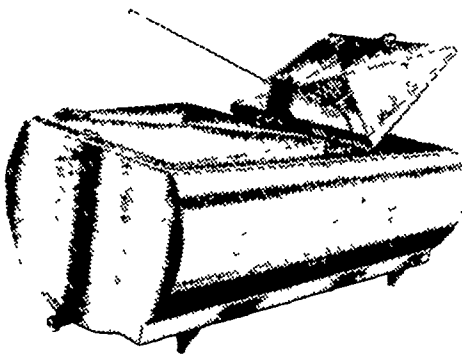
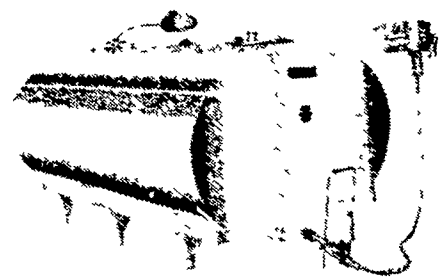
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