

PDA helps tomato growers cope with crops

HARRISBURG — "Farmers are versatile," said a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture spokesman concerning the future of farmers in the Milton area who this year found themselves with cancelled contracts for their crops.

In February, the fact that the American Home Foods plant in Milton was cancelling all former contracts with local growers of processing tomatoes became public knowledge.

As a result of this decision by the makers of Chef Boyardi products, 163 farmers suddenly realized that their 1640 acres of land, representing 37 percent of the processed tomato acres in the state, would not have a

market in 1980.

Instead of delivering their 30,190 tons of tomatoes at the door step of American Home Foods, these farmers were forced to look elsewhere for a buyer.

Through the efforts of PDA and State Representative Reno Thomas, a market for 1800 acres of red and green tomatoes was lined up with Furrmans Canning Company, near Allentown, along with a green wrap packaging operation.

Some of the cancelled farmers actually stayed out of the tomato business this summer, said the PDA spokesman, growing sweet corn instead. But many marketed tomatoes to Furrmans who took the red tomatoes or switched to green wraps, he stated.

Currently, PDA is working on the possibilities of these farmers growing alternative crops, such as black turtle soup seeds, mustard seed, and soybeans. They are also trying to secure reliable markets for these exotic crops.

"The only problem with growing beans in Pennsylvania," said the spokesman, "is the climate. The beans don't dry down enough and they tend to mold."

One question troubling a number of farmers is why did American Home Foods drop them as processed tomato suppliers.

"I believe they closed the operation in Milton to Pennsylvania growers because our small farms

couldn't compete with the large producers in California and Arizona. Out there, they can raise thousands of acres of tomatoes on irrigated land and ship them East — and their prices are still competitive," said one tomato grower.

In order to protect the tomato growers and other farmers who raise crops, like fruit, grain, vegetables, and hay from the potential economic disasters of lost

markets, the Pennsylvania State Grange recently adopted a policy calling for a guaranteed payment to growers. This would be similar to the Packers and Stockyards Act that protects livestock farmers and the Milk Security Fund which protects dairymen.

"As it stands now, if a processing company goes down the tubes, the farmer is left holding the bag. We're calling for a contract bet-

ween the processor or storage facility and the grower before the crop goes in the ground," stated Dave Weinstock, State Grange Information Director.

Whether this Grange policy will be incorporated into state law will be up to the legislature. In the meantime, PDA is continuing its efforts to help these farmers out of the red — tomatoes, that is — and into the green — SM

Amber glass protects cattle virus vaccines

ST JOSEPH, Mo. — When you buy cattle virus vaccines — for IBR, BVD and PI₃, consider the color of the vaccine bottle. It makes a difference, says Dr. Mark Keister, technical service veterinarian for Anchor Laboratories, a division of Philips Roxane, Inc.

"Certain portions of sunlight spectrum can kill live and modified-live virus vaccine in clear vials," Keister says. "But amber glass filters out the damaging rays and substantially reduces loss of potency."

If you work cattle outside, Keister says, choose virus vaccines in amber bottles.

"Our tests show that a clear vial of virus vaccine left in the sun begins to lose potency pretty fast," Keister explains. "An animal vaccinated toward the end of a multi-dose clear vial may not be protected. But vaccine in an amber vial can be left in the sun for several hours and still provide adequate protection."

IBR vaccines in clear bottles can drop to minimum government standards for potency after only 30 minutes of sunlight exposure, according to a recent

study by Anchor Laboratories. Anchor's IBR vaccine in amber vials exceeded government standards for more than four hours of sunlight exposure.

In the test, eight vials of reconstituted modified-live IBR vaccine were exposed to sunlight to determine its effects on virus vaccines in amber glass and clear glass vials.

Anchor tested its vaccine in amber and clear glass vials plus six competitors' vaccines in clear glass vials. The vaccines were tested for potency at 0, 5, 30, 120 and 240 minutes.

After 30 minutes of sunlight exposure, more than half of the IBR vaccines in clear vials dropped below minimum government

standards for release. By the end of two hours, all seven vaccines in clear glass vials failed to meet the minimum government standards for IBR vaccine.

In contrast, the amber vial of Anchor IBR vaccine remained above the minimum government standard, and maintained a constant level of potency through four hours of sunlight exposure. The amber vial effectively filtered out harmful rays of sunlight and substantially reduced long-term potency loss.

Bacterin vaccines are killed-virus products, not as susceptible to sunlight, and don't require the same protection, Keister says.

FFA convention ends

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The FFA National Convention got off to a booming start as 20,900 members, advisors and guests invaded Kansas City for their annual convention.

Despite threats of snow, the week was filled with elections, workshops and

award ceremonies.

According to Charles Ackley, vo-ag instructor at Ephrata, 19 of Pennsylvania's 21 American Farmer recipients attended the event.

Detailed information and pictures will be in next week's Lancaster Farming.

Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page A10)

meeting, noon, Historic Strasburg.

Northampton Farmers Union, 8 p.m., Chestersfield Manor, Easton.

Lincoln 4-H Community Club capon exhibit, 5:15 p.m., Ephrata American Legion.

Thursday, November 20
Cumberland County DHIA Banquet, South Middleton Fire Hall, Boiling Springs, 6:30 p.m.

Century Farms to be honored at LACI Banquet, Good and Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown, 7 p.m.

Lancaster County Farmers Union, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Farm Credit Assn. annual meeting, 7 p.m., Camp Hebron.

Lancaster County capon contest (FFA), East Towne Mall, 7 p.m.

Friday, November 21
Farm-City Week begins,

continues through Nov 27.

York County Farmers' Forum, Rutter's Restaurant, Red Lion, 7 p.m.

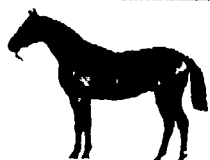
Saturday, November 22
Berks Dairy Calf Sale,

Fairgrounds Square Mall, 11 a.m.

Hunterdon County, N.J. Board of Agriculture annual dinner meeting, Quakertown Firehouse, 6:30 p.m.

Berks County beef banquet, 7 p.m., Kutztown Grange.

HORSE & TACK AUCTION



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1980
6:00 P.M.

Thomasville Livestock market Rt. 30 West of York, PA.

Sale order - Used tack, new tack, registered and grade horses and rodeo stock
Commission - horses 5% \$5 on no sale, 10% new tack, 20% used tack

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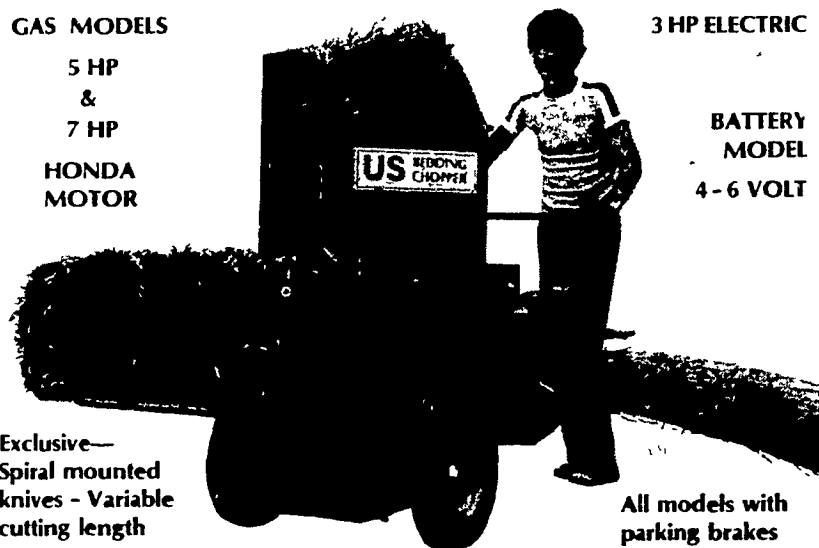
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