

Newcastle threat to poultry eliminated

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The threat to the U.S. poultry industry posed by the most recent outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in cage birds appears to have been eliminated, a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian said last Thursday.

"We feel we've found all the infected birds," said Jerry Mason, who coordinated the national program to eradicate this foreign bird disease.

Farmer's dollars topic of PFA panel

HERSHEY — A panel discussion of farm business advisors on "Getting The Most Out of Your Business Dollars" will take place Monday afternoon during the 30th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association.

Several hundred farmers' association leaders have gathered at the Hershey Motor Lodge and Convention Center, November 23 to 26, to participate in convention activities, adopt policies on farm issues and elect officers.

Richard Denison, Manager of PFA's Farm Management and Business Analysis Service (FM-BAService) will moderate the panel discussion which takes place during the annual meeting of PFA's Members' Service Corp. The panel will include FM-BAService account supervisors who will discuss farm business organization through sole proprietorship, partnership, limited partnership and corporations, and a Legal Service attorney to discuss legal implications.

"However, suspicious symptoms at a few aviaries and pet shops are still being checked

"We were forced to destroy some 30,000 exotic cage birds at more than 550 locations in 45 states - and spend more than \$2.8 million - but it was worth it," he said.

"USDA estimates that exotic Newcastle disease would cost the poultry industry \$400 million annually, if it became established in the United States. This cost

would be passed on to consumers as higher poultry and egg prices," he said. A 1971-73 outbreak in southern California caused the death or destruction of 12 million laying hens and cost \$56 million to eradicate.

The disease was first detected at a Miami, Fla., cage bird wholesale facility September 10. Veterinarians traced bird shipments from Miami to 41 other states, Mason said. The disease was diagnosed on 61 premises in 23 of those states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and New Jersey.

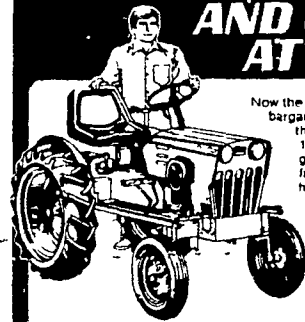
To fight the outbreak, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service activated - for the first time -

all five of its regional emergency task forces, Mason said. USDA and cooperating state veterinarians worked from temporary headquarters in Miami, Fla., Topeka, Kans.; Hyattsville, Md.; Santa Ana, Calif., and Houston, Texas, to locate all infected and exposed birds.

Birds shipped to the infected facilities were killed and specimens submitted to USDA's national veterinary services laboratories at Ames, Iowa, for testing. Swab samples taken from exposed birds were also submitted to the laboratories.

This procedure made it possible to destroy only those birds from facilities that tested positive. All birds in a pet shop were killed only in those 61 instances when the disease agent was diagnosed on the premises.

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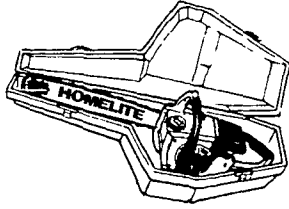
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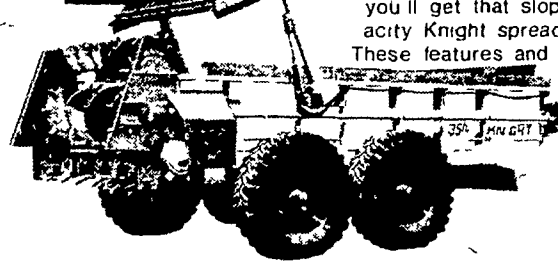
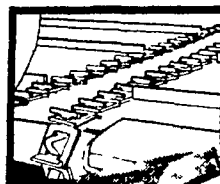
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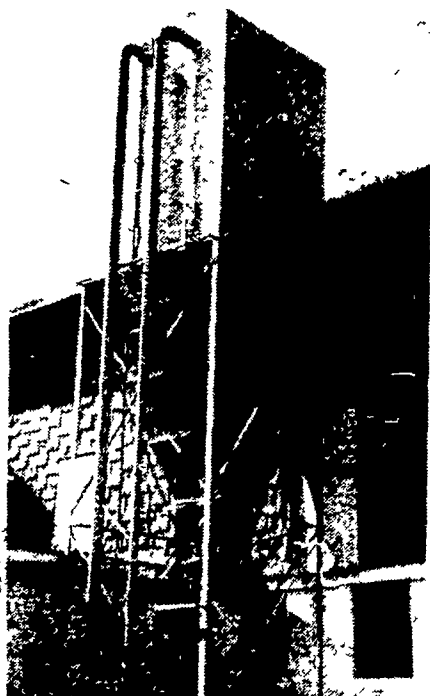
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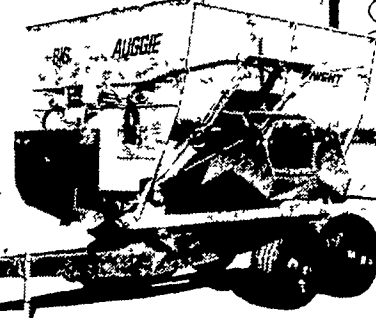
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