

Wilbur Houser

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milk production was 9568 pounds. In 1980, the average has risen to 14,941 pounds of milk.

Houser attributes this increase to better management by dairy farmers, better sires available through AI, and better feeding programs through forage analysis.

One draw back to his job, Houser confessed, is the

irregular hours he has to keep. He said his earliest farmer milks at 3:40 in the morning and his latest starts around 6 in the evening.

"This variation wasn't so bad in the early days because most of the testers then were single men and they stayed overnight at the farms where they were testing. Now, nobody stays overnight anymore — and there are two women

supervisors in the county.

There are hazards to his job, said the Lancaster County head supervisor. "There's always a certain amount of risk of getting pinched, kicked, or stepped on when you walk in beside a cow to get to the pipeline for the sample," he said.

Houser laughed when he said he wishes farmers would put their windows in quicker in the fall. "I get cold quick."

His job almost would be perfect, too, if farmers would never over-sleep and they would all milk at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., he grinned.

"The best part about the job though is meeting and working with people. Besides, I can't retire yet — I can't afford to," Houser smiled.



Wilbur Houser, left, discusses lactation records with John M. Harnish, Beaver Valley Pike, Lancaster. Harnish's herd is the top producing herd on Houser's circuit. His 163 Holstein cows' record stands at 19,214 pounds of milk and 689 fat. Last year, one of Harnish's top cows, Gladys, milked 29,045 pounds with 960 fat.

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USDA plans technical analysis for FUEL

YORK — FUEL, the alcohol fuel cooperative started by leaders of York County Farmer's Union several months ago, reports

that the USDA has agreed to do a technical analysis for the cooperative. The study will survey market potential, feedstock

availability and the overall economic feasibility of alcohol fuel production in York and neighboring counties.

FUEL president George Hoke announced Thursday that James Goff and Frances Yager, agricultural marketing specialists with the USDA Agricultural Cooperative Service, will be in the York area this week to begin the survey.

Hoke has called a meeting of the cooperative for Tuesday at Pleasant Acres Ag Center, 118 Pleasant Rd., York at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will offer the opportunity to consult with the USDA on alcohol production.

"The primary objective of this farmer-controlled venture is to develop an alternative fuel option for people who do not want to

remain dependent in oil companies," Hoke said.

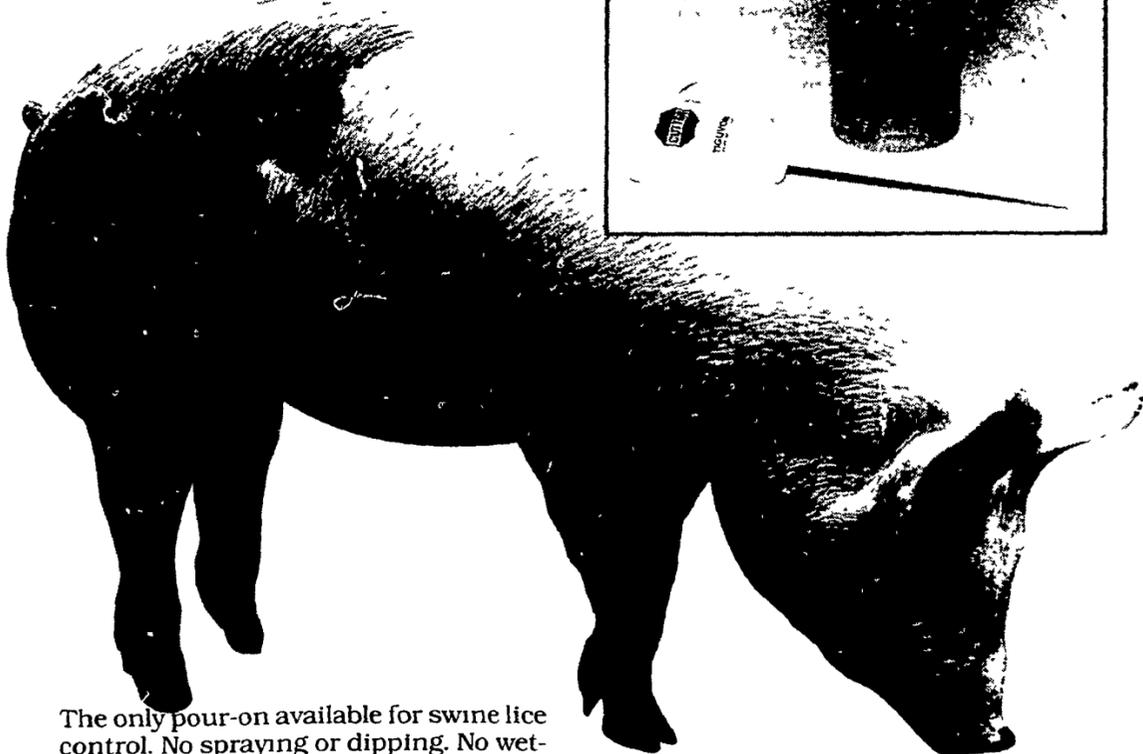
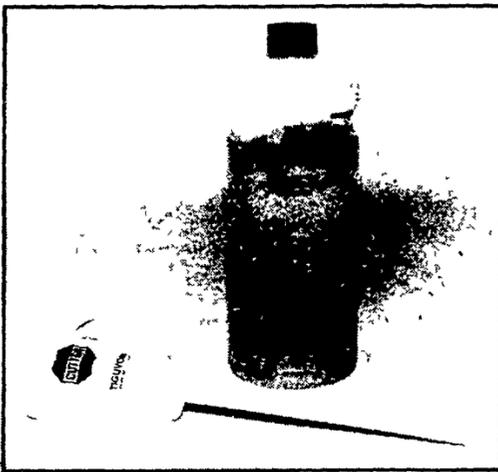
"Petroleum fuels are headed for two dollars plus a gallon," Hoke added. "Our Middle East oil sources are now dangerously vulnerable to a cut off by border wars. Pennsylvania family farmers cannot survive under these conditions unless they have their own independently controlled source of fuel for farm production."

"If we rely entirely on the big oil companies to supply us with alternative fuels (gasohol), we will pay captive prices for that fuel," Hoke said.

Hoke also announced that the cooperative is searching for interested people to invest in the venture and make it possible, and that the public is invited to attend the Tuesday meeting.

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