

Four streams made 'exceptional value' waters

HARRISBURG — Four Pennsylvania Fish Commission 'Wilderness Trout Streams' were classified as 'Exceptional Value Waters' by the state's Environmental Quality Board during a meeting on Tuesday.

The board, a 21-member independent panel of executive agency officials, legislators and citizens charged with passing regulations to be administered by the state Department of Environmental Resources, also added a chapter on Alternative Emission Reduction Limitations to the commonwealth's air pollution control regulations, granted permission to four air pollution sources to use the 'bubble' policy covered in the added chapter, and approved for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for public comment revised regulation chapters on 'Food Establishments' and 'Standards for Sewage Disposal Facilities.'

Designated Exceptional Value Waters, the commonwealth's top water quality classification, were Hell Run in Slippery Rock Creek Basin, Lawrence County; John Summerson Branch in Kettle Creek Basin, Clinton County; a portion of Johnson Brook, Pine Creek Basin, Potter County, and a portion of Elk Fork, Driftwood Branch-Sinnemahoning Creek Basin, Cameron County.

Under the commonwealth's anti-degradation policy established by DER, all waterways designated as 'Exceptional Value Waters' must be maintained at or better than the quality existing at time of designation.

While DER proposed Exceptional Value Waters classification for three of the

streams, the department had recommended that Hell Run be given the next lower classification of High Quality Waters, which permits lowering the water quality where there is significant social and/or economic justification of local benefit.

The EQB opted for the higher classification after conducting a public hearing.

The new air pollution control regulation chapter will incorporate specific procedures for each source applying for alternative emission reduction limitations under the federal 'bubble' policy. The bubble policy permits an operation to offset excessive pollution from one source by lowering emissions beyond those mandated from another source at the same locale.

Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, Bristol, Bucks County, will utilize the bubble policy to offset volatile organic compound emissions from coating machines using solvent and water-based coatings with low emissions from a solventless coater used in its coated paper products producing plant.

The new chapter on 'Standards for Sewage Disposal Facilities, which took DER and the Sewage Advisory Committee two-and-a-half years to prepare, will be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for a 30-day comment prior to consideration by the board for final adoption.

Revised regulations governing Food Establishments also will be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for public comment.

In addition, they will be the subject of an EQB public hearing to be conducted in the Fulton Bank Building, Harrisburg, at 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 9, by Agriculture Secretary Penrose C. Hallowell and Health Executive Deputy Secretary Dr. Donald Reid.

The board approved

typographical corrections to seasonal farm labor regulations adopted Dec. 16, 1980, and voted to ask the Seasonal Farm Labor Committee to clarify definitions of

temporary, seasonal, domicile, and residence and the water supply section in these regulations.

How computers aid food quality control

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Mini- and micro-computers have aided a virtual revolution in recording, reporting and analyzing food quality control data, according to a University of Maryland professor of horticulture.

The quick calculation, memorization and readout capabilities of today's miniaturized computers permit food technologists to quickly identify and solve potentially costly production line problems, says Amihud Kramer, who has written extensively in the area of food quality control.

This more efficient handling of food quality control data can result in less waste and increased productivity for food processors and in an even higher, more consistent quality of food for American consumers who demand product uniformity from frozen apple turnovers to Zwieback toast.

The idea is to produce and market any product in accordance with specifications at the least cost," Kramer explains. "For this reason, we think of quality control from the standpoint of particular tests made to keep a product safe at the level of quality required."

The tests assess many

characteristics, from taste, smell, texture and color to weight, bacteria content and safety, to give a few examples. The more characteristics or variables involved, the more complicated it is to analyze the relationship between us.

Within a food quality control system, Kramer says, the application of statistics simply allows an individual to make decisions based on known risks rather than on the basis of intuition or hunches, alone.

Before the advent of miniaturized computers, the usefulness of a statistical control technique was considered on two main bases:

The opportunity it provided for rapid computation so that results could be reported and posted promptly and action taken as soon as possible after action was indicated.

Its mathematical validity.

The new computers can store information for use at any point in the calculation process and then organize the data in the form of a graph, a particularly important function in the area of food quality control.

The increased calculation

capabilities offered by miniaturized computers have several useful applications in the area of food quality control.

Mini- and micro-computers are especially useful in variable sampling procedures. In the case of food products, for example, sampling is not only necessary to detect the presence of defects, but also for a host of nutritional, sensory and functional variables.

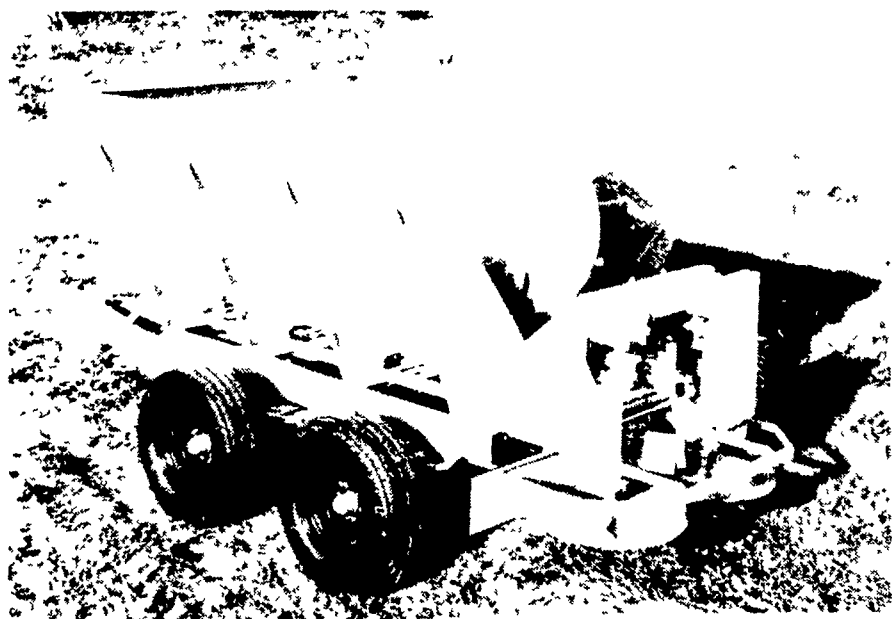
Another area of quality control in which miniaturized computers simplify the process is in evolutionary operations.

Where other control methods have control limits on constants, evolutionary operations differs in that there is an ongoing attempt to change those control limits to see if the change will improve the product.

By using evolutionary operations, we can change both the time and the temperature involved, then use the analysis of variance to obtain the optimum combination of time and temperature which will provide the desired period of time.

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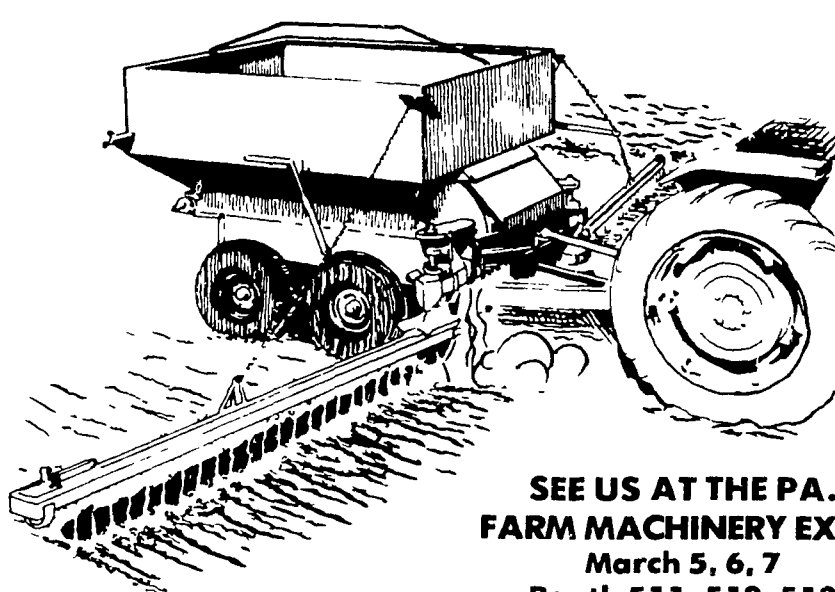
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