

Recent Newcastle outbreak eradicated with little impact

LANCASTER — Despite its potential for destruction, last fall's nationwide outbreak of highly contagious exotic Newcastle disease was eradicated with little impact on the U.S. poultry and pet bird populations, a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian said this week.

"Shipments of infected or exposed birds led USDA inspectors to 2,046 pet stores, private and commercial aviaries, and fancy and commercial flocks in 45 states," said Keith Hand of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"Altogether, there were nearly 75 million birds on the affected premises. We had to destroy 30,080," he said.

Of the birds destroyed, he said, 9271 came from three locations in Miami, Fla., and 5089 from one location in Houston, Texas. Over

1000 of these birds died before the disease was confirmed, he said.

"These four locations were the original outbreak sites—all subsequent spread occurred from these sites," Hand said.

"All birds shipped from the four primary sites were tracked and

purchased for diagnostic purposes," he said. "In 504 instances, testing showed no trace of the disease, and no further birds were bought."

"However, 45 wholesale and retail premises were infected and 10,240 birds were destroyed there"

he said. "The disease also infected 105 birds in 18 private homes."

Infected birds were found in 23 states—from Hawaii and California in the west, to Maine and New Jersey in the east, from Minnesota in the north, and to Texas and Florida in the south.

"Had we not moved rapidly to eradicate this disease," Hand said, "I have no doubt that the virus would have spread to poultry, causing massive losses to farmers and driving up prices at the retail, consumer level."

Franklin County prepares for dairy princesses

CHAMBERSBURG — Once again the Franklin County Dairy Promotion Committee is making preparations to crown a new Franklin County Dairy Princess. The contest this year will be held at the Kauffman Community Center on Saturday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

Contestants entering the contest will be representing the state's number one agricultural industry.

The purpose of the dairy princess program is to promote milk and other dairy products.

Contestants are being invited to enter this year's contest and vie for the crown of County Dairy Princess.

To be eligible, the girl must live in Franklin County. She must be the daughter of a dairy farmer, herdsman, or dairy farm owner during the current year, or the contestant be the owner of more than one dairy animal prior to May 1, 1981.

She must have completed her junior year of High School and will

not reach her 22nd birthday by December 31 of the year of the contest. She must be single and never married and can not marry during her reign. She must have her parent's or guardian's consent.

Former local winners are not eligible.

Entry blanks for the local contest are now available from any member of the Franklin County

Dairy Promotion Committee. Further information and entry blanks may be obtained by contacting the Franklin County Extension Service Office in Chambersburg.

The winner of the local contest will receive a \$100 award, the First Runner-up \$50, and each of the other contestants will receive \$25 for participating in the contest.

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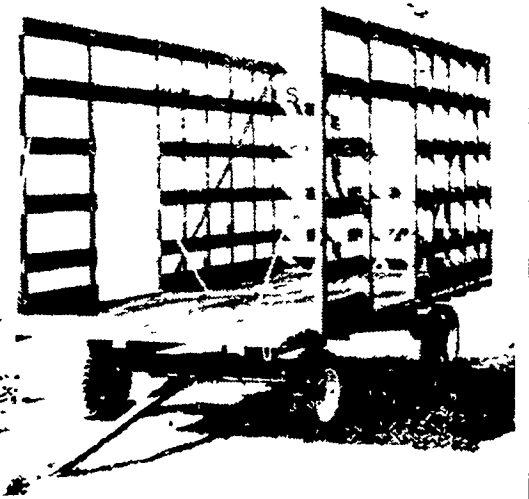
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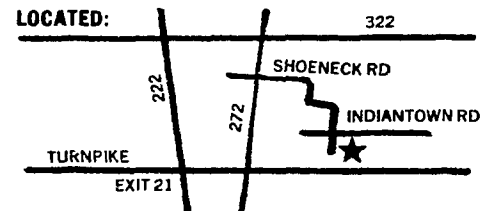
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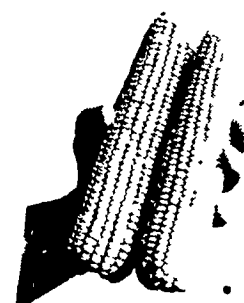
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