

# Planting

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few bright spots in the farm economy during the past year

Some growers are planning a 10 to 15 percent increase in acreage, according to reports, and some who had dropped out of growing are expected to move back in.

If a 10 percent hike results countywide, it could increase tobacco acreage by some 1,300 or 1,400 acres to bring the total to the neighborhood of 15,000 acres. This would be the highest number of tobacco acres in recent years.

Growers also appear to be making excellent use of Ridomil in the fight against blue mold after its approval for use for the first time in seed beds.

Last year, growers had to rely on periodic sprayings in the battle in the seed beds.

Thus far, no blue mold has been

reported in the U.S. At this time last year, it had already appeared in places like Florida.

But there have been reports from Central and South America and Cuba, where the Ridomil was not used.

While the use of Ridomil is expected to help the growth of the small plants in the seed beds, growers will again need to be vigilant at the time of transplanting into the fields.

The new seed bed measures should help to reduce the sporulation load locally, but won't be a factor once transplantings are made into the field.

Blue mold spores can be blown into the county from a long distance and there could be overwintering of the disease, which might break out if weather conditions were favorable for its development.

# Ag student receives DeKalb award

L1111Z — Bill Zollers, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Zollers, Sr. of Mertztown, was recently named winner of the 1980 DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award.

The award, sponsored nationwide by DeKalb AgResearch, Inc., is presented to the senior agriculture student attaining the

highest degree of proficiency in scholarship, leadership and supervised agricultural program.

Thus, it's expected that growers will also rely again on the use of the systemic fungicide, Ridomil, in the fields.



Bill Zollers

Bill attends Kutztown High School for vo-ag, where he has been secretary of the FFA chapter and chairman of various committees. He also attends his home school, Brandywine, where he is not serving as senior class president. His agricultural program consists of registered guernsey cattle and field corn.

Following graduation, Bill plans to attend Penn State University and major in dairy production.

As this year's DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award winner, Bill receives a pin and certificate, and his name will be inscribed on a special plaque displayed in the vo-ag room.



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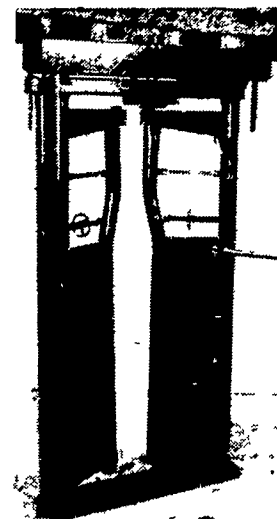
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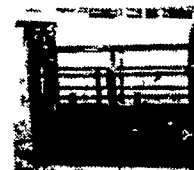


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