Sweeter, lighter syrup flows in Pa.

HARRISBURG - Production of maple syrup in Pennsylvania during 1981 is estimated at 62,000 gallons, up 11 percent from last year's crop, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The average opening date was February 28 and the season lasted until March 30. Overall, the season's temperature was rated favorable by 83 percent of the producers.

The sweetness of the syrup was described as high, and syrup color was mostly light. Forty-two per-

cent of the producers indicated that they gather sap with buckets only, 26 percent with plastic tubing only, and 23 percent use both methods.

Production of maple syrup natonally in 1981 is estimated at 1,410,000 gallons, up 45 percent from the 973,000 gallons a year earlier, and is the largest crop since 1966.

Season average price at \$18.10 per gallon is up \$1.90 from last year. Value of production is \$25.5 million is up 62 percent from a year ago.

Correct semen handling

(Continued from Page D12)

straws is maintained below the critical temperature of 112 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Use forceps to raise the can and grasp it with one hand and quickly remove the straw from t e goblet using the forceps.

Place the straw into the water and thaw for the specified time as

- Check the straw for bull name and number, dry it thoroughly with a paper towel, and protect it from rapid cooling.

- Cut the straw squarely and load it into a clean, warm and dry inseminating device.

Keep the inseminating device warm and make a clean entry into the cow.

~ Keep up-to-date to changes that may occur in semen handling and insemination technique.

'The purpose of good semen handling is to recover and maintain the most live sperm for insemination", notes O'Connor.

"Thawing procedures have been critically tested in laboratory and the field by AI organizations and universities. The newer techniques have shown improvement, so why not pay attention to detail. Use procedures that are beneficial and increase herd conception rate," he concludes.

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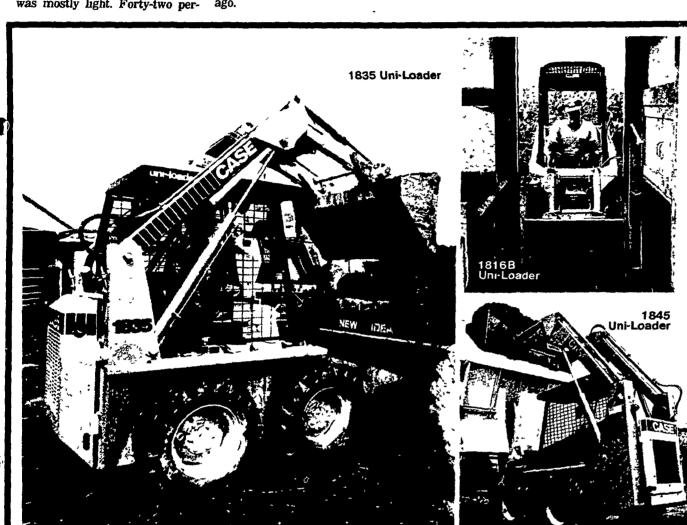
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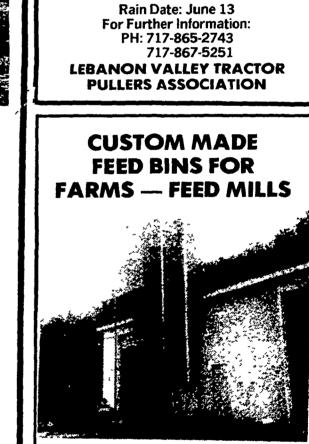
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