

Ag bills nip nuisances

HARRISBURG — Farming got some political help this week in Harrisburg to guard against nuisances of one type or another that often interfere with agricultural operations.

Highlights of the abbreviated week on Capital Hill show:

Signing of H.B.143, the Ag Areas Bill, by the governor marked the final step in the enactment of the legislation sponsored by Rep. Noah Wenger, of Lancaster County, which authorizes the creation of

agricultural areas by local government to help combat interference from nuisance laws.

Wenger and Rep. Joe Pitts, of Chester County, were co-sponsors of legislative amendments which passed both the House and Senate to help guard against nuisances of another sort.

The amendments to the Fire and Panic Act exclude farm buildings, occupied by less than 10 employees, from requirements of the

State Department of Labor and Industry.

Wenger explained that the exclusion was spelled out in the amendment after both a Lancaster County poultryman and a Chester County mushroom grower had received visits from inspectors of the Department of Labor and Industry.

"Similar buildings with less than 10 employees are excluded from OSHA requirements and we felt that the same exclusion should be

included in state regulations," Wenger said.

The exempted farm buildings with less than 10 employees are those used for the production or storage, or both, of agricultural products or used in the storage of farm equipment.

State agriculture also fared well in the final passage of the state budget, which the governor signed

in the wee hours of Wednesday morning.

Along with the scheduled appropriations listed in the budget, it included also a line item of \$200,000 for various research projects and marketing promotion activities of the PDA.

Included in the research will be studies of stray voltage, leaker eggs, deer damage and shipping fever.

Ag panel

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money in an account which only paid four and a half percent?"

Jay Irwin provided information on the Extension service and the help they offer. As an example, he said that in one day he received 109 calls on the Gypsy Moth problem.

John Barley offered insights into the type decisions he as a dairy farmer must make on his business.

Darvin Boyd explained to the audience that one farmer produces enough to feed 68 people, 48 Americans and 20 overseas.

And together as a panel, they answered and discussed the questions on agriculture raised by the audience; except the ever-present unspoken question of what can farmers do about their predicament?

Cereal crops

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while Lang and Larry are not far behind.

In a discussion of winter oats, little hope was seen for the development of a totally acceptable crop.

"I don't think winter oats will

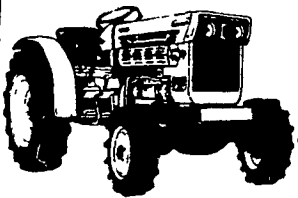
ever be a safe crop," Marshall said.

"It is more productive and it just depends if the grower wants to gamble on possibly losing one crop out of five in an open winter."

Most states have dropped their winter wheat research programs.

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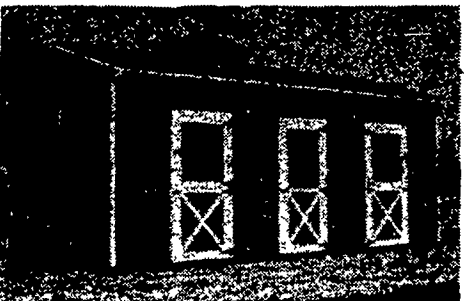
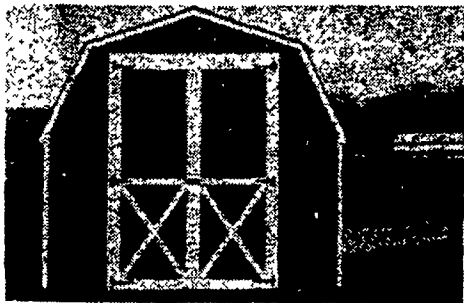
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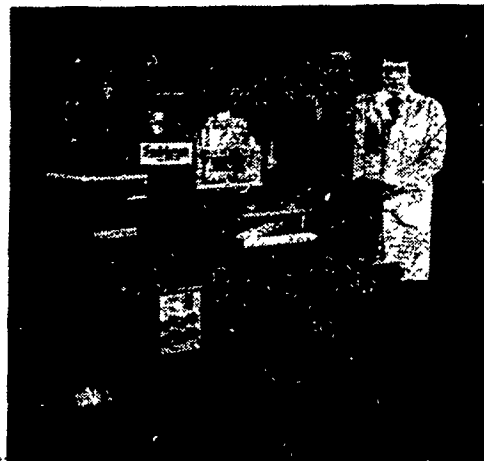
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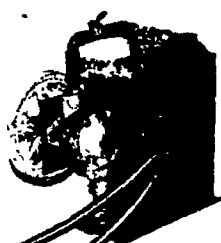
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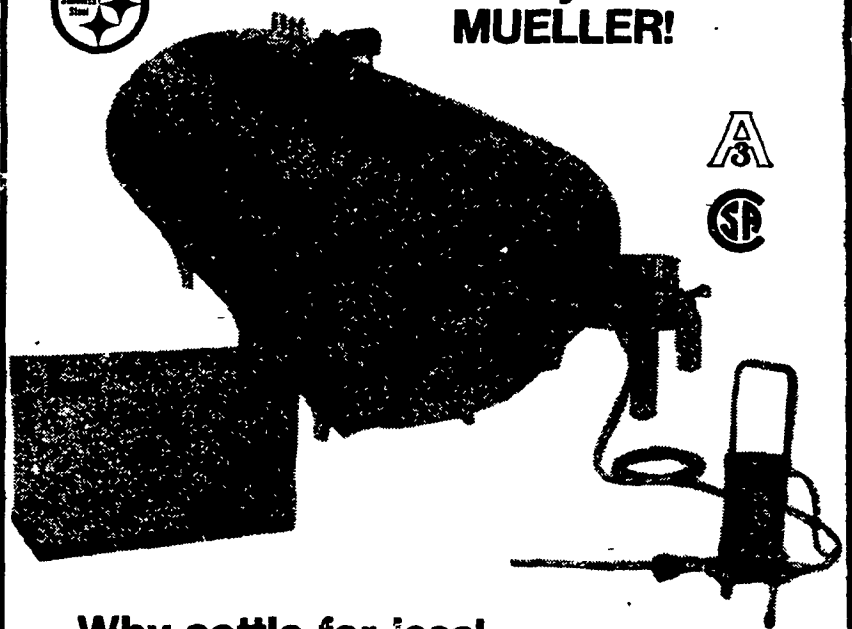
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