

USDA grants exclusive license to company

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a move to speed government scientific discoveries into commercial use for the public, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will grant some exclusive licenses for private companies to manufacture and sell products patented by the USDA.

The aim is to get a higher pay-off for publicly-financed research.

The first such exclusive license — to develop a product to control nematodes and other parasites — has been granted to the Pennwalt Corp. of Philadelphia, according to Anson R. Bertrand, USDA director of science and education. The product will be based on a formula patented by the USDA.

"Nematode pests damage seven percent of the nation's total crop production each year," Bertrand said. "At present values, that's a loss to farmers and consumers of

about \$3 billion. We hope that a nematode control product can be developed to help cut those losses substantially."

Bertrand said the products now commercially available for controlling nematodes are too costly for use on most crops.

"Companies often feel that without some license protection, they can't afford the developmental and start-up costs to produce and sell a product competitively. Instead, they will put their limited capital resources into their own patented or licensed products that promise higher returns than a product marketed by many companies," he said.

USDA will continue to offer new government patents to all private companies on a non-exclusive basis for six months. If no companies show an interest in non-exclusive licensing, the USDA will

determine whether to license the patent on an exclusive basis.

"I expect more and more companies will seek exclusive licenses to USDA's inventions," Bertrand said.

About 1,200 USDA patents on inventions ranging from farming equipment to food proteins now are available for licensing by private industry for development and marketing.

Pennwalt Corp., a chemical manufacturing firm, has the right

to the license for five years from the date of government approval for the sale of the product, and for five years from the first commercial sale of the product in each licensed territory, not to exceed June 30, 1989.

The research that resulted in the patents was conducted at USDA's Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Md., by Malcomb J. Thompson, research chemist, Insect Physiology Laboratory; Julius Feldmesser, technical advisor-zoologist, Nematology

Laboratory; and William Robbins, now retired, formerly chief of the Insect Physiology Laboratory.

These scientists now are eligible, under the Federal Inventor Incentive Awards Program, to receive a portion of the royalties collected by the National Technical Information Service. This agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce administers exclusive licenses for USDA through a cooperative agreement between the two departments.

Cattle producers

'move out' for Texas

STATE COLLEGE — Members of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association are planning a chartered air flight or a bus tour to San Antonio, Texas between January 28 and February 5, to attend the National Cattlemen's Association 1982 Annual Convention.

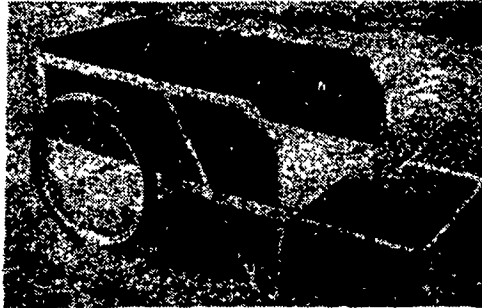
The NCA program will focus on maintaining and improving cattle producers' and beef's advantages in the competitive protein food

industry.

The three-day convention program and trade show will be held at the San Antonio Convention Center. The National Cattlemen's Association has planned several tours of cattle operations in the San Antonio area.

For more information, contact The Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association offices at 862 Webster Drive, State College, PA, 16801.

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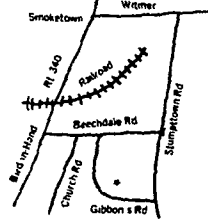


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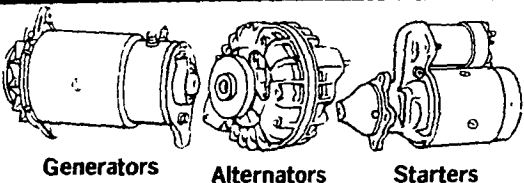
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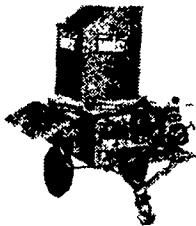
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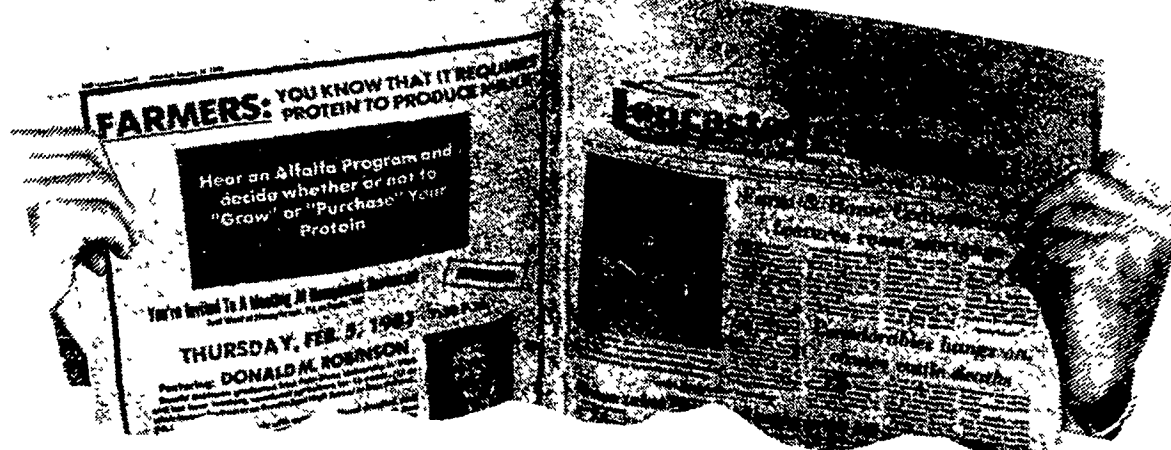
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