

## Pa. potato stocks up

HARRISBURG — Total stocks of potatoes stored in Pennsylvania on Feb. 1 were 2,100,000 cwt., 11 percent more than a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Current total stocks are 40 percent of this year's production of 5,250,000 cwt., compared with 45 percent on hand a year ago.

Estimated potato stocks in the 15

major fall states as of Feb. 1 totaled 133 million cwt., 11 percent above a year ago at this time but ten percent less than Feb. 1, 1980. Of the total on hand, 74 percent are russets, 22 percent are whites and four percent are reds. Potatoes processed to Feb. 1 totaled 59 million cwt., 18 percent more than in the same period a year ago.

## Fire ant quarantine extends

WASHINGTON, D.C. U.S. Department of Agriculture officials report. — New areas of 70 counties in seven southern states have been added to the federal quarantine to prevent the spread of the imported fire ant.

Thomas J. Lanier, chief regulatory officer with USDA's Animal and Plant Health In-

spection Service, said this action includes new areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas where fire ant infestations have been found since federal quarantines were last amended.

Lanier said federal regulations restrict the movement of certain articles and products that could artificially spread the imported fire ant unless they are inspected and treated, if necessary. They include soil, nursery stock with soil attached, grass sod, hay, straw and used mechanized soil moving equipment.

The imported fire ant is an aggressive stinging insect that builds numerous large mounds in pastures, fields, lawns, parks and other open areas. The stings of these insects can cause severe allergic reactions.

Presence of the mounds, which may contain 200,000 ants, and the insects interfere with farming, gardening, and the use of school grounds and public recreation areas.

New regulated areas have been added to the quarantine for the imported fire ant in these counties:

ALABAMA: Cherokee  
ARKANSAS: Calhoun, Cleveland, Columbia, Desha, Lafayette, Miller, Quachita

GEORGIA: Burke, Candler, Cherokee, Cobb, Columbia, Emanuel, Floyd, Glascock, Haralson, Jefferson, Jenkins, McDuffie, Morgan, Oconee, Paulding, Richmond, Rockdale, Walton, Warren.

MISSISSIPPI: Alcorn, Carroll, Grenada, Leflore, Prentiss, Sunflower, Yalobusha.

NORTH CAROLINA: Beaufort, Bladen, Craven, Pender, Robeson

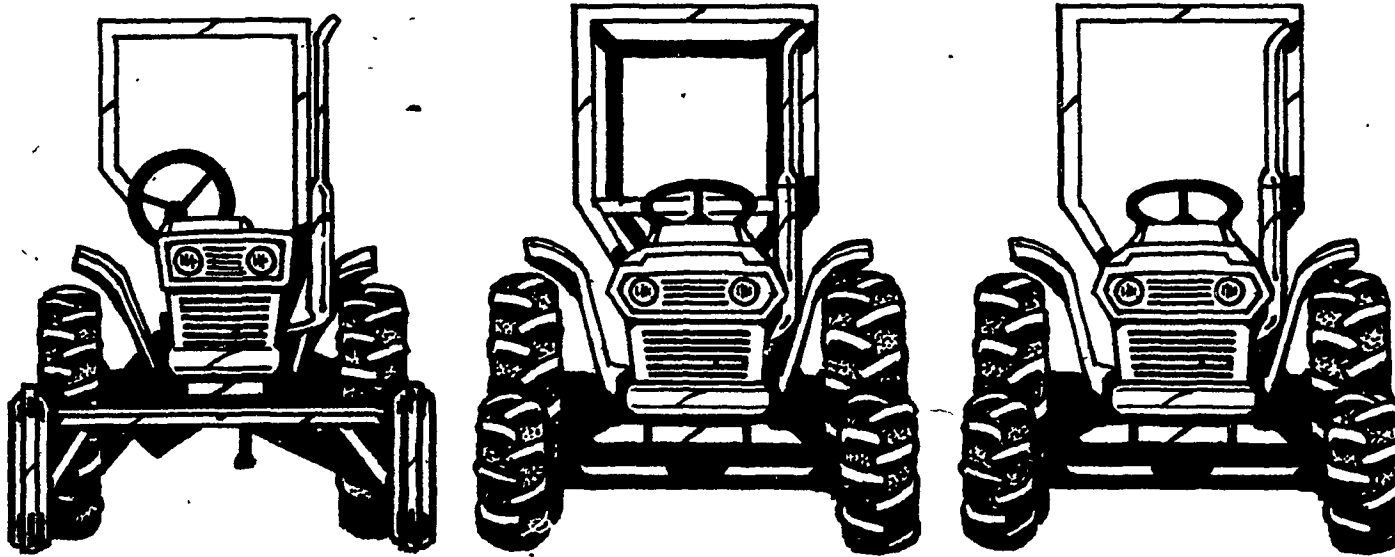
SOUTH CAROLINA: Allendale, Barnwell, Dillon, Fairfield, Florence, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Williamsburg.

TEXAS: Aransas, Bell, Blanco, Cass, De Witt, Falls, Goliad, Hays, Henderson, Hill, Jim Wells, Kerr, Marion, McLennan, Rains, Refugio, Rockwall, Upshur, Wilson.

Although the quarantine and regulations become effective immediately in these new areas; public comments may be submitted through March 15. Comments may be sent to: Deputy Administrator for Plant Protection and Quarantine, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, MD. 20782.

Notice of the action was published in the Jan. 12 Federal Register.

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