

Mushroom

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13 percent in '83.

By the time the tariff is lifted, Snyder expressed confidence that it will have given the mushroom industry enough time to adjust to the imports "so they won't hurt as much."

Snyder said the AMI plan is to swing the domestic mushrooms

into the fresh market where the producer receives a higher price. Admitting growers are experiencing hard times, Snyder pointed out how it costs 65 cents per pound to grow mushrooms and, even on the higher-priced market, fresh mushrooms are only bringing 60 cents a pound. Processing mushrooms are only

Pa. mushroom production

UNIVERSITY PARK — Mushroom production in the United States reached nearly 471 million pounds during the 1980-81 marketing season. This is fractionally higher than the 1979-80 crop and 4 percent more than production in 1978-79 and continues the upward trend in production since mushroom estimates were started in 1966.

This year's survey includes growers with production in 26 states, unchanged from a year earlier.

Pennsylvania, the leading state, with 50 percent of the U.S. 1980-81 crop, grew 237 million pounds, up 11 percent from the previous season. Eastern states, 13 percent; and western states, 25 percent.

The value of the 1980-81 crop was \$351 million, down 5 percent from the 1979-80 season. Growers averaged 74.5 cents per pound compared with 78.4 cents the previous season. Volume of fresh market sales increased to 267 million pounds during the 1980-81 marketing year, up 4 percent from

the 1979-80 season. Fresh sales accounted for 57 percent of the U.S. production continuing the upward trend in the proportion sold fresh.

Growers used approximately 140 million square feet of bed and tray area to produce the 1980-81 crop, down 7 percent from the previous season. Yields averaged 3.35 pounds per square foot, 7 percent more than the 1979-80 yield.

An estimated 142 million square feet of production area is intended for use during the 1981-82 season, a 1 percent increase from last season. If growers' current plans are carried out, first filling will be virtually the same as last season; second filling, up 1 percent; and additional fillings, up 3 percent from the 1980-81 season.

returning 40 cents a pound to the growers.

While the AMI awaits the Secretary of Agriculture's opinion on their proposal for a federal marketing order, the mushroom organization is making wise use of its time, initiating a "campaign of understanding" where it takes the ideas of paid advertising and federal marketing orders to the growers. During these regional meetings, the growers are free to ask questions and the AMI representatives try to provide the requested information.

To date there have been four of these campaign meetings held, the first being held at Kennett Square, followed by more recent meetings in Nottingham, Temple and Avondale. Two more meetings are scheduled for March and April and will be held in California and Michigan, respectively.

When Secretary John Block gives his approval to AMI's proposal, it will be the mushroom growers chance to have the last word.

If two-thirds of the producers who voted — either by number or by the volume of production — approve the program, and if handlers of a majority of the crop volume to be regulated sign the marketing agreement, the Secretary will then issue a marketing agreement and order

program effective for the entire industry.

While pursuing promotion projects, AMI is continuing its fight to control the influx of imported mushrooms.

"We're fighting to maintain import restrictions because it's part of our strategy," said Lewie Marton, AMI's attorney. "We want to restrain imports while we build up the fresh market."

AMI's executive director Jack Kooker and Marton will appear at the U.S. International Trade Commission's hearing investigating the mushroom tariff scheduled for March 10, 1982. The ITC instituted this investigation to gather information on developments in the mushroom industry since tariff relief became effective

in November 1980. Progress and specific efforts made by the firms in the industry to adjust to import competition will be noted and presented to President Reagan with no ITC recommendation.

At the hearing, representatives of Korea and Taiwan will attempt to exempt mushrooms broiled in butter or butter sauce from the list of imported mushrooms controlled by the tariff. AMI will oppose this exemption attempt.

"The mushroom industry is one of only two commodities receiving import controls — the other is the television industry. We oppose all tariff exemptions because we want Washington to keep its current perception that the mushroom industry is worthy of protection," said Marton.

Pa. broiler placements up

HARRISBURG — Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending February 13 were 2,247,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The placements were one percent above the corresponding week a year earlier and eight percent above the previous week. Average placements during the past nine weeks were slightly below a year ago.

Placements in the 19 key poultry producing states were 79,543,000, one percent below both the previous week and the same week a year earlier. Average placements in the 19 key states during the past nine weeks were one percent above a year ago.

Broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania under federal inspection during the week ending February 3 totaled 1,832,000, with an average liveweight of 4.00 pounds.

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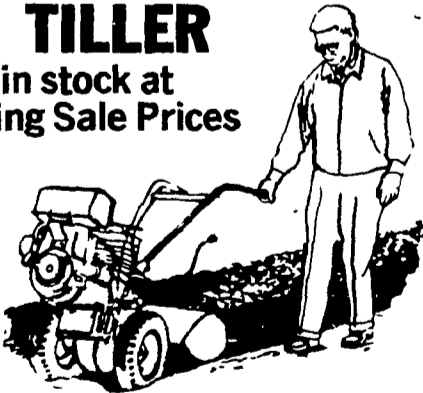
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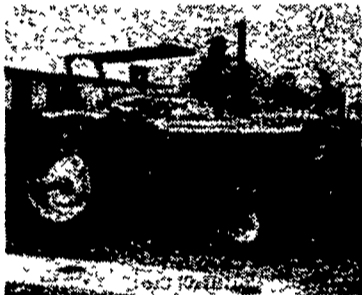
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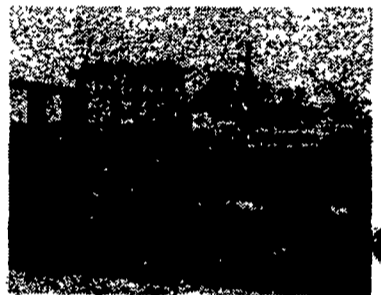
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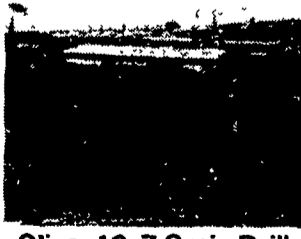
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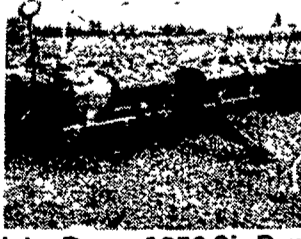
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