

It's time to check seed beans

DOVER, Del. — Now is a good time for farmers to send soybean samples to the state department of agriculture seed laboratory in dover for germination tests.

"When I talked recently with the lab's Dick Goerger, he told me the tests he's run so far this year indicate there are some low germinating soybean lots out there," reports University of Delaware extension agent Derby Walker. "To avoid getting caught short on the number of beans you have at planting, have them tested now to determine whether you'll need to buy a new lot."

Sometimes low germination can be attributed to a surface pathogen, in which case a

fungicide seed treatment will correct the problem, Walker says. "If the soybeans don't germinate at a satisfactory level the first time, another sample is treated with fungicide and they're tested again to see whether this treatment raises the percent of germination. If beans have to be tested twice, it takes much longer to get the report back."

To avoid having to hunt for more soybeans in the spring, the agent advises farmers to send their samples to the lab now. It could save both time and money.

Collect beans from several spots in the load, he advises. "A sample taken from only one spot may not be representative of the whole

truckload or bin full of soybeans."

It's best to send in a pint per sample. There's no need to clean the beans first, because they will be cleaned at the lab. Place each sample in an unbreakable container and label it with your name, address and the variety of bean. "If you have more than one bin or lot of soybeans, include the lot number too," Walker suggests.

Soybean samples can be mailed to the Seed Lab, State Department of Agriculture, Drawer D, Dover, De. 19903. They can also be delivered directly to the laboratory at any time of day and left in a receiving box by the door.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture increased charges on Feb. 1 for federal egg, poultry and rabbit grading, and federal mandatory egg products inspection overtime.

Overall fees and charges will be increased about 3.5 percent, the same as a federal employee pay raise received this month.

The rate for the cost of USDA supervision of grading and other overhead expenses will increase from \$.024 to \$.025 per case of shell eggs and from \$.00024 to \$.00025 per

pound of poultry.

The hourly rate for mandatory overtime egg products inspection will increase from \$16.56 to \$17.20.

Grading services, administered by USDA, are made available upon request of financially interested parties. The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 requires user fees to be reasonable, and as nearly as possible to equal the cost of the services. Under the Egg Products Inspection Act, the cost of overtime service must be borne by the user, but appropriated fund pay the basic costs.

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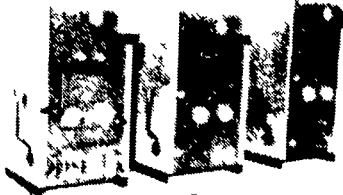
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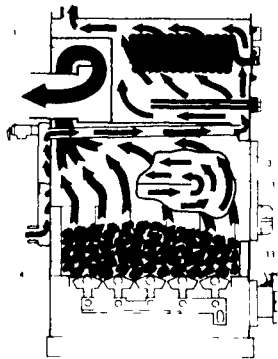
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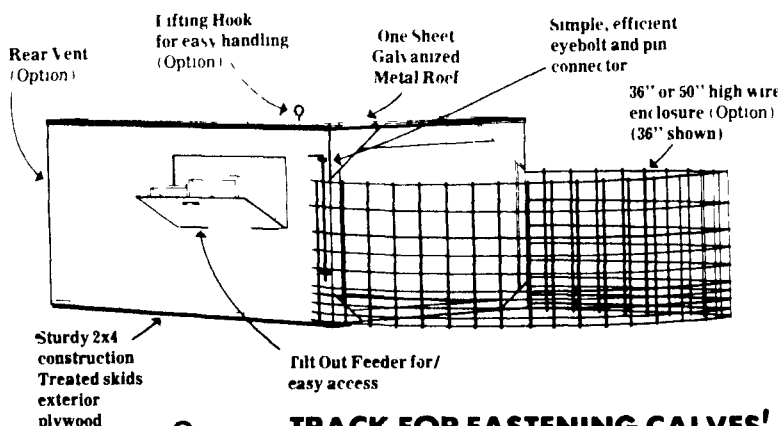


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