

Franklin County quarantine lifted

BY KIMBERLY HERR
LANCASTER — The Avian Influenza Task Force announced this week that Franklin County has been released from the general quarantine restricting the movement of live birds and hatching eggs.

Dr. John Jefferies, USDA director of the task force, and Dr. Earl Neuffer, state co-director, announced Wednesday that the general quarantine was removed in a 200 square mile area of Franklin County because an intense surveillance of the area had yielded no signs of avian influenza infection.

This marks the first time that the quarantine zone has been reduced in Pennsylvania since it was instituted on Nov. 4.

Tim Allwein, Pa. Poultry Federation spokesman, reported Friday that 281 flocks have been declared to have the influenza and all of those flocks have been depopulated, for a total of 11,396,118 birds.

Allwein described the situation for this week as "pretty quiet." However, there was, according to Allwein, one new flock, consisting of less than 700 birds, found to be diseased in the Frystown area, near the Lebanon and Berks County border.

Two other new flocks are considered suspicious at this time. They are located in the Fredericksburg area of Lebanon County and the Ronks area of Lancaster County. The Ronks flock is made up of pullets.

"The last thing we need right now is to have more pullets get sick," Allwein said, commenting on the scarcity of pullets.

In a rundown of the repopulated flocks, Allwein reported that one

flock has been declared to have the disease. Allwein explained that the Lititz 25,000-bird flock was replaced on Feb. 8 and was declared with the disease on Feb. 23. The initial flock of 24,000 birds had been depopulated in November.

The second case in which a repopulated flock was declared sick was a result of a USDA computer error, according to Allwein, resulting in birds that

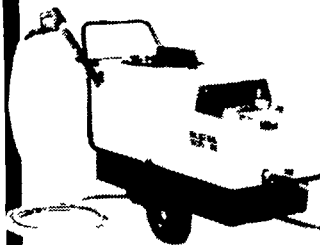
already had the avian influenza being sold before the disease was detected. This case, Allwein explained, is not being counted as a repopulated flock.

Of the one repopulated flock that did contract the influenza Allwein said, "It is a bad sign as far as the fact that it is another break," however, he added that any disease control effort expects to have some repopulated flocks come down with the disease.

Out of the 45 repopulated flocks, there has only been one influenza outbreak.

Allwein announced that the advisory committee, made up of poultry and influenza experts, that has been working with the USDA will meet with poultry producers and industry personnel on March 8 at the Host Farm to answer questions on such topics as vaccination, how the influenza started and how it spread.

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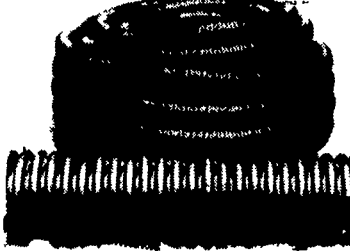
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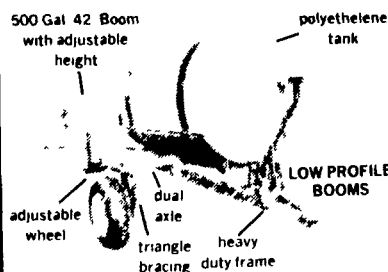
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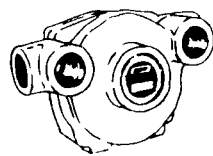


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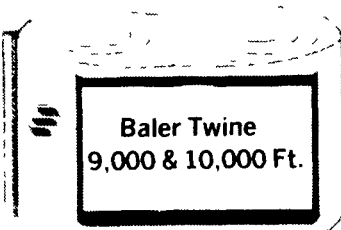
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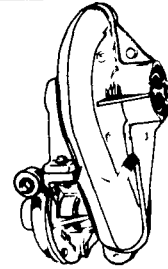


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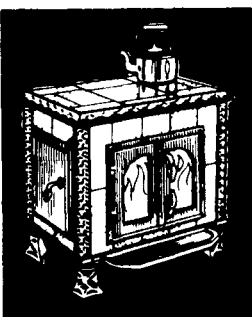
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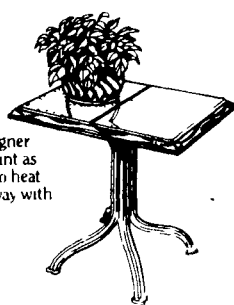
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