

Md. offers wasps for soybean pest control

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Soybean farmers who are ecologically minded and want to get away from the use of chemicals for insect control can get a start in that direction by contacting the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Mexican Bean Beetle Control Program.

Control officials are gearing up to begin their annual production process for rearing thousands of tiny wasps which don't bother humans but are deadly enemies of

the Mexican bean beetle; the number one insect pest of soybeans.

These insects will be available to Maryland farmers in lots of 5 thousand or 10 thousand each for release in soybean fields. When released the female insects seek out the larvae of bean beetles into which they deposit their eggs. The larva serves as a living food supply for the developing wasp larvae. When the mature wasps emerge

from the shell of the dead beetle larva, the females seek out new hosts and the process starts all over again. During the course of a normal growing season, sizable populations of wasp can develop from the initial release.

This program is not designed to eradicate the Mexican bean beetle but only to reduce its population to a level which does not pose an

economic threat to soybean producers. Participating farmers are charged a minimal fee of 20 cents per acre of soybeans, with a minimum total fee of \$8.00. The minimum fee would be sufficient to cover 40 acres which is the approximate average size soybean field in the State.

In addition to supplying the wasps, program personnel will

advise farmers on the proper time and methods of release to ensure maximum control. Interested parties should contact MDA prior to June 1 so that a sufficient supply of wasps can be reared to meet total needs.

Additional information may be obtained by phone at (301) 841-5920 (Annapolis) or (301) 454-5725 (College Park).

UEP receives thanks

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The directors of United Egg Producers heard strong expressions of thanks last week from the Pennsylvania egg industry for the firm support given to the Pa. Poultry Federation and the Industry Task Force in securing improved AI indemnity payments.

Spokesman for the Pa. egg industry at the UEP directors meeting in Washington, D.C. was Donald Horn, of Pennfield Corp., Lancaster. He said the "United Egg Producers was the first major poultry organization to step forward in active support of the principle of fair market payment."

He explained that federal law clearly called for application of this principle and detailed the body of law precedents and court decisions supporting that position.

All of the activity generated to press for fair market value was centered on this legal base.

In Horn's opinion the decision that came from the USDA to modify and implement the original payments came in response to a vigorous campaign in behalf of fair market value waged first by producers and their organizations and finally by the Pennsylvania political leadership at the highest levels.

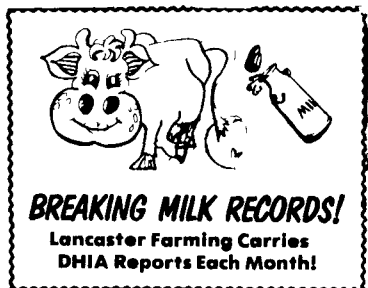
Speakers named by PennAg

EPHRATA — State Rep. June Honaman and State Sen. Noah Wenger will discuss the current economic situation in Pennsylvania at PennAg Industries Association's 106th Convention at the Host Corral in Lancaster on September 25.

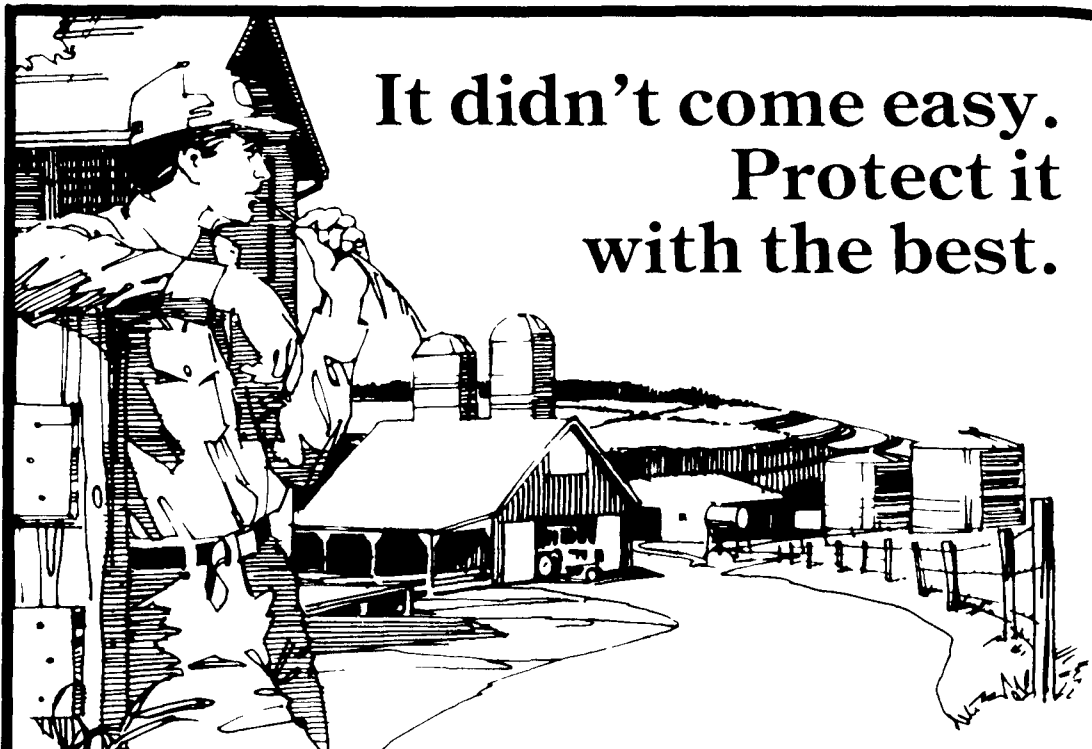
Honaman, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, is a member of the Agriculture Rural Affairs Committee. Mrs. Honaman has represented the 97th district since 1976. She resides in Landisville and is married to Peter K. Honaman, attorney. She graduated from Manheim Township High School and Beaver College. She also taught in the Lancaster City Schools.

Wenger, Senator of the 36th Senatorial District, is chairman of

the Senate Labor and Industry Committee and vice-chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. In 1976 Wenger was elected to the Pa. House of Representatives. He served in this office until 1982 when he was elected senator. He owns a 107-acre livestock and poultry farm.



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