

Ronningen to retire in Md.

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Thomas S. Ronningen, 65, associate director of The University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station (UMAES), will retire July 1 after 35 years of academic, administrative and research work in agriculture.

Ronningen, who also serves as director-at-large of the Northeast Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, spent 23 of those years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research Service (USDA-CSRS) and 12 years with the University of Maryland.

Ronningen was born and raised on a dairy farm near Hammond, Wis. and received the B.S. in agricultural education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and the M.S. and Ph.D. in agronomy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He came to the University of Maryland's department of

agronomy in 1949 and spent the next seven years in forage breeding and management research.

He was the principal agronomist for USDA-CSRS from 1956-63, and spent the next 16 years moving through the positions of assistant administrator, administrator and acting administrator.

In 1979, Ronningen returned to Maryland as Northeast Regional director-at-large and associate director of UMAES.

As director-at-large, Ronningen helped to develop national policy for the State Agricultural Experiment Station system, which conducts nearly 60 percent of the publicly supported research in agriculture in the United States.

He has served on several national committees, including the National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Steering Committee, the National Germplasm Committee, and the National Steering Committee for Forestry Research.



DER regulations mandate that all sewage sludge to be used as fertilizer must be incorporated into the soil within 24 hours of application.

Quarantine release dates

LANCASTER — According to a recent Pa. Poultry Federation newsletter, the USDA during informal discussion tentatively set June 1 as the date to release the area west of the Susquehanna River from avian flu quarantine restriction.

The USDA is also aiming for a September 1 lift of the quarantine in all other areas east of the Susquehanna.

If the entire quarantine is lifted by September 1, 1984, surveillance would continue through the end of December 1984 or January 1985.

In other developments, laryngotracheitis (LT) has been diagnosed in a 70,000 bird layer flock in Bethel Township, Lebanon County. Dr. David Kradel of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture says that the outbreak appears to be relatively mild because mortality and morbidity within the flock were very low.

PDA has sent out an LT alert to all surrounding poultry companies and organizations to make them aware of this outbreak.

NW Pa. mystery tipper planned

MEADVILLE — The Northwest Pa. Colored Breed Association met May 2, at the Farm Credit Office, Rt. 19, Meadville. The All-Breed Calf Sale was felt to be a success although suggestions were made for improvements. The group was well pleased with the results of the \$100.00 cash raffle and with money in the treasury new ideas were brought forth to promote the association and dairy products.

Paula Kunz will chair a committee to organize a display for Farm-City Day in Crawford County on June 30. If approved, there will be a calf of each dairy breed as well as a table of literature on the different breeds. Cheese will be given out, also.

Dave Reusing brought up the idea of starting a "Mystery Tipper" in this area, much like others

have initiated in the state. This program will begin in May with Reusing selecting the first "tipper" and with the help of his committee arranging for publicity once the initial \$5 tip is earned. The NWCBA hopes to get waiters and waitresses in restaurants in Northwest Pa. to begin promoting milk as often as they have coffee and soft drinks.

Plans are also being made for a social gathering of the association to be incorporated with tours of farming operations.

The next meeting of the NWCBA is scheduled for June 6 at 8 p.m. Extension agent Blaine Schlosser of Crawford County will arrange for the meeting place. All interested persons are invited to attend. — N.K.

Gypsy moth

spraying to begin

POTTSTOWN — District Forester Maurice Hobaugh today announced that the 1984 gypsy moth suppression program in three area counties is scheduled to get underway on Monday weather permitting.

Counties in this initial area and the acreage planned for treatment include: Berks 10,500 acres, Chester 1,792 acres and Lancaster 9,477 acres.

The overall program in the Commonwealth involves 37 counties and 300,000 acres, down from the 372,000 acres treated in 1983, and the record 495,000 acres treated in 45 counties in 1982. About half of the program consists of county proposals, with the other half consisting mostly of state forest lands and state parks.

The amount of state-owned land being treated has risen sharply because of a growing tree mortality problem, mostly oaks. This mortality is caused by two or more consecutive years of defoliation.

No-till covers

NEWARK, Del. — Most no-tillage programs include a cover crop on at least part of the acreage. This is an excellent practice and should be continued, says University of Delaware extension county agent Dean Belt. Yet every year he hears of a few farmers who have had a bad experience with a cover, and vow never to use one again. After seeing their situations, Belt says he can understand why they feel that way.

"Cover crops are planted to help control soil erosion, add organic matter and provide a mulch to conserve moisture and aid weed control," the agent says. "But if allowed to grow too long during a dry spring, a cover will work against you and actually dry out the soil to the point where you may have trouble planting into it."

Avian influenza forum

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The biennial conference of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, set for June 26-28 at the Radisson-St. Paul hotel in St. Paul, Minn., will feature a forum on avian influenza prevention efforts on June 27.

According to Irvin Peterson, coordinator for the plan, the forum on avian influenza prevention will be chaired by E.C. Sharman, assistant deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Problems encountered and lessons learned during the recent outbreak of avian influenza in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey will be discussed by experts representing federal and state governments, the poultry industry and research laboratories.

Participants include Charles Beard of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. William Buisch

of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Dr. Robert Eckrode, poultry pathologist at New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania, David Halvorson of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Max Van Buskirk of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Frank Craig of Perdue Farms, Douglas Hoffer of Creighton Brothers, William Chase of Hyline International, Gary Waters of Dekalb AgResearch and Carl Weston of Hubbard Farms.

Sharman said avian influenza

does not affect humans and no human health hazard has been associated with the outbreak that has caused the death or destruction of more than 12.5 million birds at a cost of more than \$40 million.

The National Poultry Improvement Plan is celebrating 50 years of service to the poultry industry this year. The plan has played a significant role in the development of a healthy, productive poultry industry, which has done so much toward supplying needed food for our nation, said Sharman.

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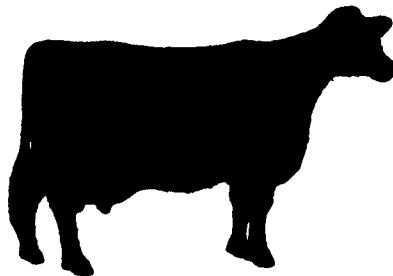
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