

York Fair going for 'World Records'

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

YORK — Just how big is the world's biggest apple? Or squash?

The York Fair board aims to find some giants of the horticultural world - and has put up a purse of prizes that should send both professional growers and backyard gardeners heading for the patch with a bag of fertilizer and watering can.

A \$1,000 prize, per class, is up for grabs to any grower who can beat the current world's record in any of ten different classes of fruits and vegetables.

Placings will be determined by weight. To win the "World's Biggest" class, an entry must be largest in the class and beat the current world's record as defined in the newest edition of the Guinness Book of World Records.

Classes include apple, cabbage, cantaloupe, cauliflower, gourd, pear, potato, squash (including pumpkins), tomato and watermelon.

For whopper produce that doesn't quite measure up to world record competition, the Fair board is offering a second "records" category. A \$25 premium, per class, is offered in the "York Fair's Largest" category, also to be determined by weight.

Since this year's competition for

the York Fair records is the first, with no previous records to beat, entries have a chance to hold the fair title for at least one year along with earning a \$25 premium.

Classes for the York Fair record category include apple, cabbage, cantaloupe, gourd, nectarine, pear, potato, squash (including pumpkin), tomato and watermelon.

According to Don Lanius, manager of the horticultural department, a blue-ribbon committee has been selected to make final rulings on the entries in the World's Largest Class. Members are Tony Dobrosky, York agricultural extension agent, John T. Smith, retired county agent and member of the York Fair Board, and John Hope Anderson, retired state legislator, fruitgrower, and life member of the York County Agricultural Society, organizers of the York Fair.

Researchers at Martin Library in York, on checking the 1984 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records offer, a bit of information on current world record holders.

An apple grown in England in 1965 holds the world's record at 3 pounds, 1 ounce. Largest cabbage, grown in England in 1965, was of the red variety, and measured 259 inches in circumference and

weighed 123 pounds.

English growers also hold claim on the record cauliflower, a 52 pound, 11 and one half-ounce whopper, and the world's largest potato, which weighed in at 18 pounds, four ounces.

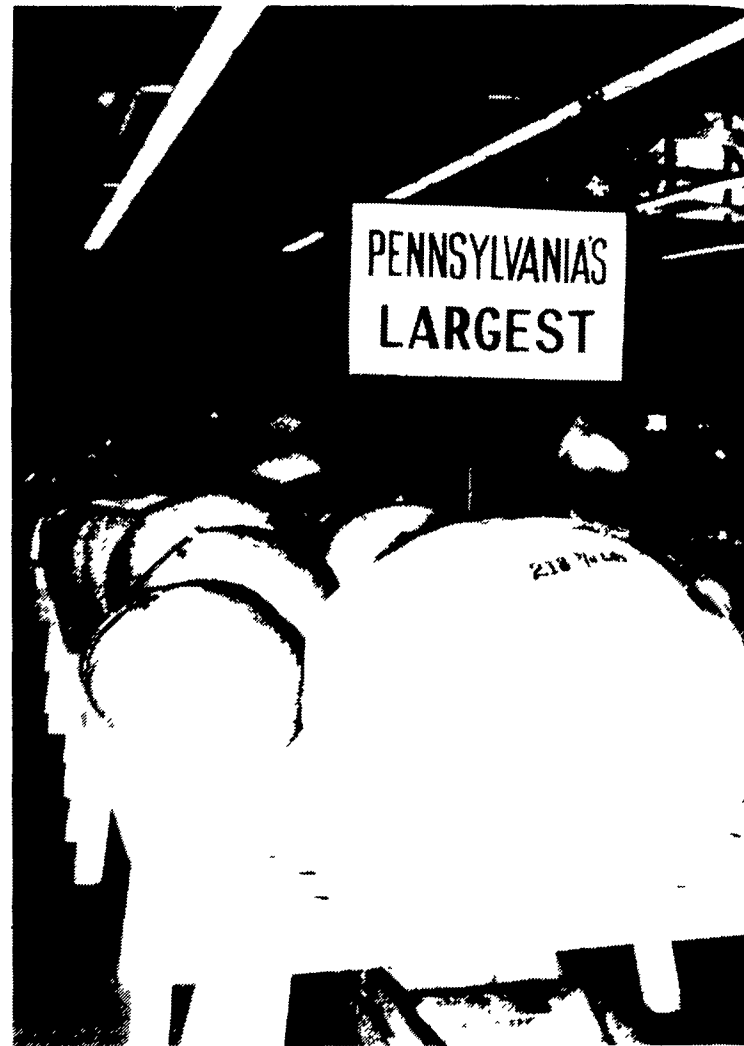
A pear, grown in Australia, is the world title holder at 3 pounds, 1 ounce.

Domestic growers hold several records, including the largest squash, at 513 pounds, which was grown in Indiana, and an Ohio-grown gourd that topped the scales at 196 pounds.

A tomato grown in Wisconsin in 1976 holds world honors at 6 pounds, 8 ounces. The record on watermelons stands at 219 pounds, and a cantaloupe at 55 pounds, growing sites unknown.

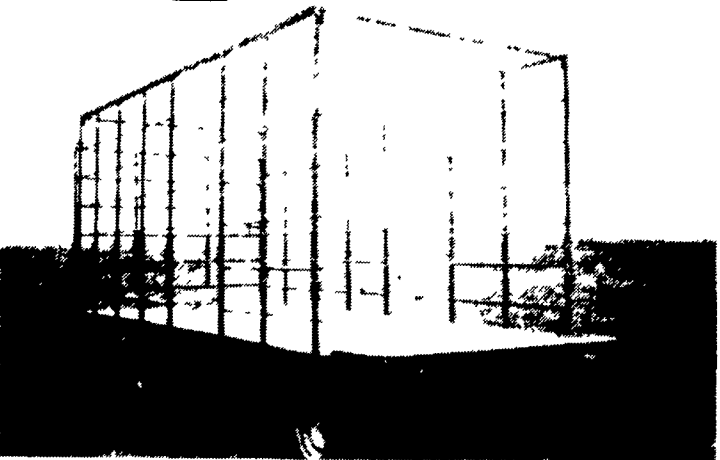
Manager Lanius also notes that no entry fees will be charged this year for horticultural exhibits. Instead, competitors will receive two rebate coupons worth one dollar each when redeemed with adult gate admission stubs.

The York Interstate Fair will run from Sept. 7 through 15. For further information on horticultural entries, contact the York Fair office, 334 Carlisle Avenue, York, at 717-848-2596, weekdays 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.



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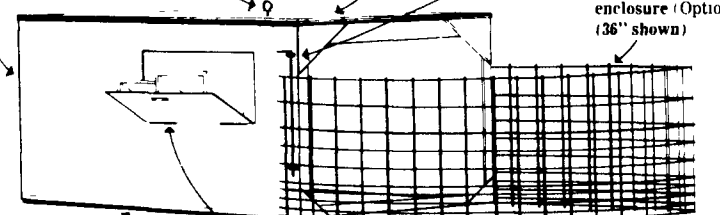
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