

From hot air balloons to other ag pests

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The issues are varied. It may be hot air balloons spooking cattle, or crop damage caused by balloons or sky divers landing in fields, and the traffic of attending vehicles.

It might be the problems encountered by a rural resident when a tree falls on the power line between road and buildings...and the power line is private, not power company-owned.

It could be a new pest, like the soybean cyst nematode, found in New Jersey for the first time this past season.

It's issues like these that make

the monthly County Board of Agriculture meetings interesting, at times exciting. The board includes a program on each meeting agenda. It's not always a "hot" issue in the agricultural community. The programs are most often informative and educational.

President of the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture is Fred Clucas, Tewksbury Township grain farmer. He will be making his report to the membership at the association's annual meeting, next Saturday evening, Nov. 17, at Quakertown Fire House.

He is particularly pleased with

the two new activities this year: Ag Awareness Day and the county's corn contest. Ag Awareness Day was a day of open houses on 12 different farms in the county. Host farms were spruced up for the occasion, tours available, demonstrations, and more.

The corn contest is new, with six entries. Three of the six have been harvested and yields confirmed. The costs of inputs have also been reported and have been summarized Dr. Bob Latimer, farm management specialist at Rutgers.

Winners of the contest will be announced at the annual meeting.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

There are a number of annual events scheduled by the ag board. They include: the Farmers'-Businessmen's Picnic; the Dairy Farm Open House with attendance of close to 2,000 people; the Farmers' Day activities at Flemington Agricultural Fair; the Pennsylvania Farm Show bus trip.

They have included programs on chain saw safety (NHHS Vo-Ag group); handicaps on horseback; deer management; an American Farm Bureau film on the '85 Farm

Bill; Agriculture in the Classroom, a new program in the schools. The association often contributes financially to efforts like these.

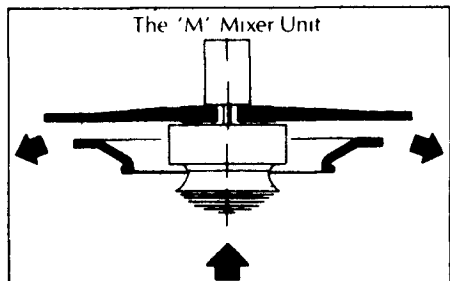
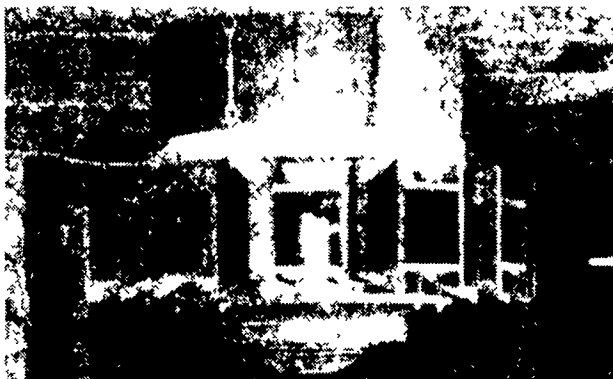
A big event this year was the N.J. Agricultural Society Legislators' tour of Hunterdon. The local ag board strongly supported this activity.

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 8 p.m. in the Extension Center. Public is always welcome. Occasionally, the meeting is shifted to the second Wednesday to avoid a conflict with other activities.

The annual meeting coming up next Saturday includes a roast beef dinner. This year's speaker will be Harold "Nate" Repair, Somerset County Ag Agent, speaking on the subject, "The Dilemma of a County Agent."

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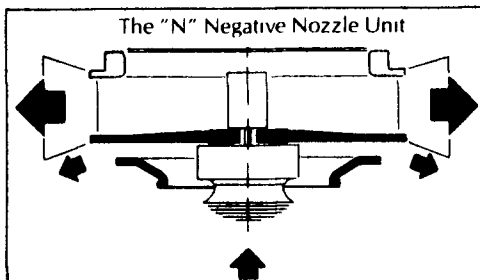
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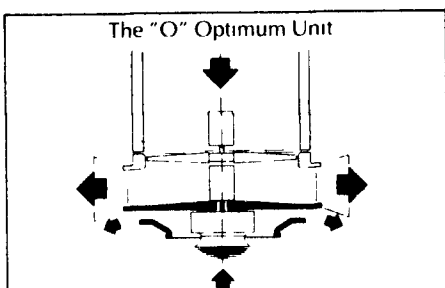
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Tobacco grades aired

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — According to Stuart Carr, Secretary of the Maryland Tobacco Authority, the question of reinstating USDA grading to tobacco was due to be discussed at the Nov. 9 meeting of the Authority.

"In addition to considering the opening and closing dates for the 1985 auction market season," Carr said, "we had been asked to open the agenda for discussion of having Maryland Tobacco Auctions return to a 'designated market status' which means all tobacco would be offered for sale on a graded basis."

"Some of those suggesting a return to grading...which would be done on a cost-basis and paid for by the seller...say they are fearful that off-quality 1983 crop Maryland tobacco which was unsold this year could act as a price damper on the 1985 market which will see high quality, 1984 crop, tobacco offered."

"That's why we allowed discussion of the issue at the November meeting," he said.

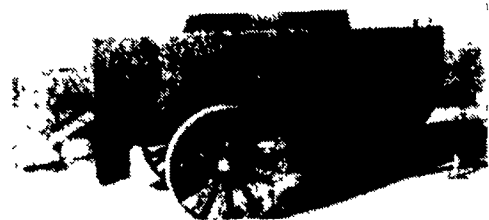
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