

# 30 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The top selling guernsey cow in the "Meeting of the Stars" convention sale brought \$2,550. This cow Bayville Mar Print Bubblemist bred and consigned by Bayville Farms, Inc., in Norfolk, VA, was sold to Samuel Berke's Deep Lake Farm at Lakeville, Connecticut.

Victor Plastow, Assistant Lancaster Co. Agent, and Max Smith, County Agent, had four 4-H youth that were honored by the American Business Club of Lancaster. They are Bruce Boyd, Abram Flory, Harry Lee Hoar, and Miss Dorothy Stehman.

Governor George Leader signed into law this week a measure that permits farmers of Pennsylvania to apply for a full refund of all state taxes on gasoline and other liquid fuels.

Facilities of the Lancaster Poultry Exchange have been offered to the Coatesville Regional Chicken of Tomorrow Contest Sale. Chickens from the contest will be sold without charge in the May 17

auction.

The barn on the Arthur Astle Farm, Oxford R2, sustained severe damage as tornadic winds ripped through the building causing \$10,000 damage.

The Pequea Valley School Board announced an open house and dedication service this weekend. The announcement was made by Arthur W. Eshleman, Principal.

The inheritance of the nationally-known holstein bull Lauxmount Admiral Lucifer is now being perpetuated through his newly proven son Penn State Lucifer Star. Lucifer Star was introduced into service this week by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Artificial Breeders Cooperative.

Identical twin dairy bull calves are needed by the Dairy Breeding Research Center of the Pennsylvania State University in a special research project. Any Pennsylvania dairyman wishing to sell identical twin bull calves to the university should contact their county agent.

## Wasp May Be Key to Potato Beetle Control

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A tiny South American wasp, smaller than a pinhead, is an "ace in the hole" for helping the potato industry cut its losses to a venomous beetle, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist says.

Robert F. W. Schroder, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, is relying on a combination of the wasp, a fungus, a growth regulator, and a bacterium to control the Colorado potato beetle, a pest that robs U.S. potato, tomato and eggplant farmers of about \$150 million each year.

Schroder is turning to the wasp and the other controls because, he said, "the beetle is becoming resistant to most insecticides." Without any control, he added, this pest can totally destroy these crops.

"The wasp is our ace in the hole because none of the native biological controls tested reduce the beetle population below harmful levels," said Schroder, based at the agency's Beneficial Insects Laboratory in Beltsville, Md. Also, he said, the wasp kills the beetles but does not attack any beneficial insects and is not harmful to humans or animals.

"Scientists from overseas are contacting us for quantities of the wasp to protect potato and eggplant fields," he said. "The wasp has potential to control the Colorado potato beetle worldwide."

Currently, Canada, Italy, U.S.S.R. and the Netherlands are rearing wasps to establish colonies for research on mass-releasing the wasp as a biocontrol. Several other countries, including Yugoslavia, are also interested in using the wasp, he said.

Schroder got the wasp from Benjamin Puttler, an ARS entomologist. Puttler discovered it in 1980 in South America with the help of Colombian entomologists; the wasp was named and described by Eric E. Grissell of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory at Beltsville.

By using the wasp alone or with other biological organisms, plus small amounts of chemical insecticides — a strategy known as integrated pest management — farmers can increase yields and reduce pesticide use.

In three years of field and laboratory studies, Schroder and colleagues found that, on potatoes, the parasitic female wasp kills an average of half of the beetle eggs in which she lays her eggs.

On those beetles that survive Schroder applies the fungus Beauveria; the growth regulating hormone, alsysitin, which prevents insects from moulting; or the bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis.

He said the tests also show the wasp provided 95 to 100 percent control of the beetle on eggplants. Wasps could replace up to 15 applications of insecticide on eggplant fields to control the beetle, he added.

Schroder is still conducting field tests on the wasp's effect on Colorado potato beetles that infest tomatoes. "I expect the same results on tomatoes as with the eggplants," he said.

Ongoing studies are being conducted with Rutgers University, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and the Virginia Truck and Ornamentals Research Station.

## Potato Seminar Book Available

DENVER, Colo. — "Managing Nematode Problems," "Micro Tuber Production," "Marketing and Contracting of Certified Seed Potatoes" and over 18 articles on every aspect of the seed potato industry have recently been published in the Fourth Annual North American Seed Potato Seminar Proceedings.

The 76-page book contains

photographs, charts and papers presented by speakers at the 1985 Seed Potato Seminar, Dec. 5-7, at the Westin Hotel in Denver.

The book is available for \$30 plus an additional \$2 charge for orders placed outside of the United States. To order, send payment with your request to: The Potato Foundation, 4685 Peoria St., Suite 101, Denver, CO 80239.

### HAVING SOIL PROBLEMS?

Here's A Timely Tip...

Be sure you apply enough

The new higher-powered fertilizers often require more lime each application to maintain a neutral soil that tests to pH7.

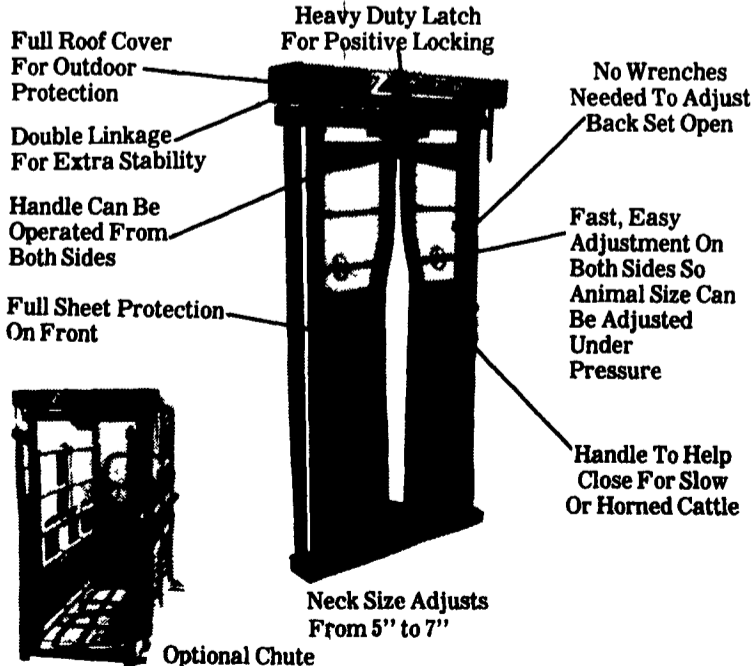
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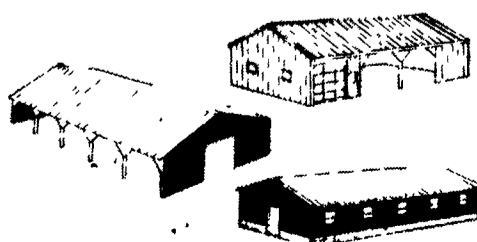
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