

## Traces of Radioactivity Detected in Pa. Milk

(Continued from Page A1)

levels of 51 picocuries per liter in the Williamsport area, 18 picocuries in the Harrisburg area and 31 picocuries in the Philadelphia area, according to William Fouse, Bureau of Foods and Chemistry.

He noted that the maximum dosage level was 12,000 picocuries per liter of milk. Also, while the levels have risen slightly, they do not expect the counts to register any significant amounts.

To illustrate how low and harmless these levels are, Mashek noted that in a chest x-ray a person is exposed to 15 to 20 millirems. A person drinking one liter of milk is exposed to .08 millirems of iodine.

Milk samples are currently being monitored daily from seven regions of the state. "Agents in each division are collecting samples at the processing plants as the milk comes from the farm," according to Howard Nields of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry. The milk is then delivered to DER to check for the isotope — iodine 131.

This gaseous isotope travels with

the wind and independently of other fallout material. Therefore, it is the first radioactive material to be detected, said Nields.

Milk is used as a measure of the concentration in an area since cows convert grasses, that have absorbed the isotope, into milk quickly, Nields added.

"There is no reason for concern," Mashek repeated due to the very low levels, and there are no plans to issue recommendations that cows go on stored feed.

At the University of Pennsylvania, a high level of .0033 of the maximum permissible concentration was measured according to Dr. Warren Witzig, Head of the Department of Nuclear Engineering. To cause any effects this level would have to be 300 times higher and last for a whole year, he added.

In other news related to the Chernobyl accident, most grain futures fell on Thursday in response to the news that Soviet agriculture would be largely unaffected by the nuclear accident, and they would be making no major grain purchases.

Rumors also circulated this week that the Soviets had made inquiries concerning the purchase of dairy cows in the buyout program.

Robert Thompson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture noted that while the department of agriculture is open to the idea, "Most of the Soviet Union is brucellosis free and they don't vaccinate for the disease. It is our understanding that they won't buy animals that have been vaccinated."

He added that since most of the animals in the United States have been brucellosis vaccinated, it limits the Soviets as a potential market.

The USDA also reported this week that 198 million pounds of beef from the buyout program were exported to Brazil.

Thursday the Senate Agriculture Committee opened hearings concerning the effects of the nuclear accident on Russian agriculture.

"It is important to emphasize, that at this time, there is no in-

formation is available that supports the theories that agriculture in the Byelorussian and Ukraine areas will suffer radioactive damage," Thompson told the committee.

Different experts on the matter

testified before the committee that not a lot is known about the impact this accident will have Soviet agriculture. What is known, they pointed out, is that the area close to the Chernobyl plant is not an important agricultural region.

## Delaware soybean loss tops 2% in '86

NEWARK, DE — Delaware soybean growers lost an average 2 percent of their potential soybean yield—230,000 bushels—last year to the soybean cyst nematode (SCN). At \$5.25 a bushel, that amounts to \$600,000 worth of beans. Sussex County producers were hardest hit, though some in Kent County also suffered losses.

University of Delaware extension plant pathologist Bob Mulrooney urges soybean farmers to take steps now to reduce similar losses this year. "The soybean cyst nematode is the number one disease problem in Delaware soybeans," he says. "In general, growers can expect a 33 percent yield loss in infested fields."

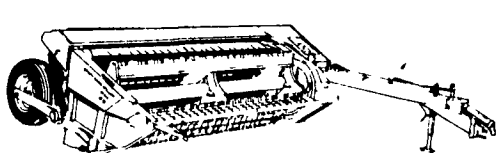
According to Mulrooney, the

problem is limited primarily to fields where soybeans have been grown continuously. A conservative estimate is that approximately 10,000 of Delaware's 240,000 acres of soybeans are infested with SCN. The pest, first detected in Delaware in 1978, has now spread as far as north as Dover. It has been a serious problem in soybeans in the eastern U.S. for many years.

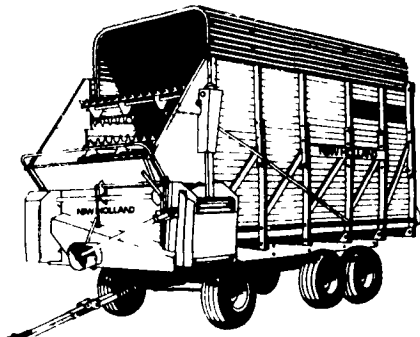
"Nematode levels in infested fields can easily be reduced with rotation or the use of resistant varieties," the plant pathologist says. "Farmers are finding it really pays to follow recommendations from our annual SCN-resistant soybean and state soybean variety trials."

## COMING... SUPER SAVINGS

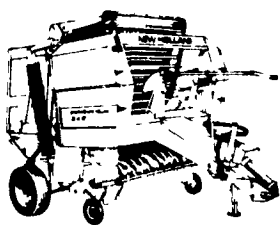
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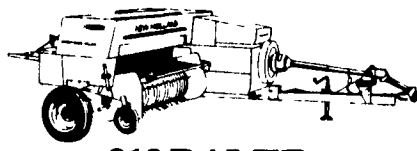
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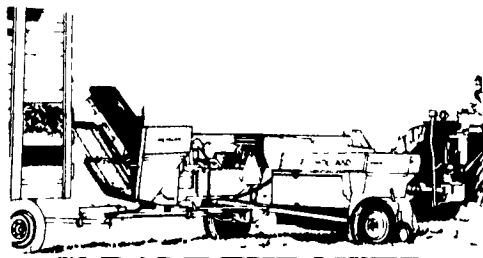
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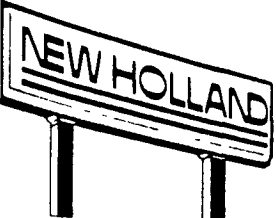
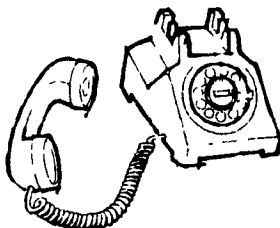
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