

PA Poultry Surveillance Continues

Two and a half years after its start, the Pennsylvania Poultry Surveillance system is running at full tilt, thanks to the cooperation of the many processing plants involved in the program.

As of July 1, a total of 105 egg processing plants and 22 hatcheries, representing over 800 producers, were involved in the testing program. Six meat processing plants and five custom slaughter plants, representing

another estimated 200 producers, are also involved.

A typical month involves the testing of approximately 13,500 samples, including some 7,000 eggs, 5,000 blood samples and 1,500 "others."

Shirley Pflieger, program coordinator, says that "almost every large producer" is being checked for AI and other poultry diseases and that samples are being taken by state inspectors

during routine monthly inspections at egg packing plants. Birds at slaughter plants are bled by plant personnel, and samples are submitted to state laboratories for testing.

While it is hopeful that no new positive samples will be found, it is good to know that any new outbreaks will be found before they get a chance to spread to a large portion of the poultry population. In fact, the surveillance system is credited for the early detection of AI last winter. That early detection enabled officials from the state and federal government to keep

the disease confined to a three county area away from the large concentration of commercial poultry in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania is still the only state in the country with a statewide surveillance system for poultry. USDA-APHIS has urged other large poultry states to follow Pennsylvania's example.

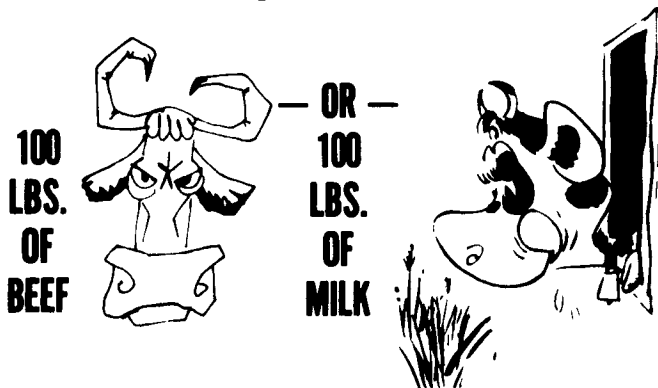
PPAB Receives Swine Award



Ron Butt, (left) manager of PPAB, a feeder pig co-op located at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, receives a plaque and congratulations from Pig Improvement Company's national sales manager, Jack Dill. PIC's award recognized PPAB's outstanding weaning rate of 22 pigs per sow for 1985.

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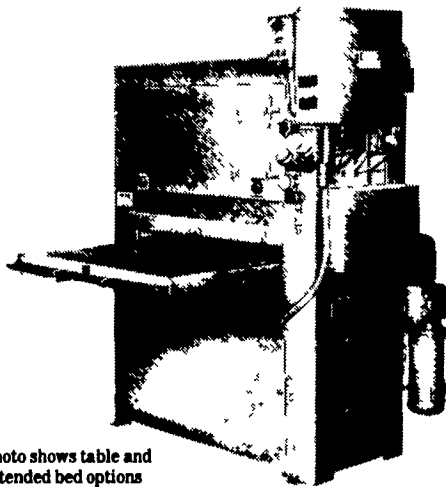


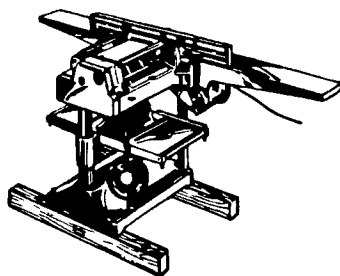
Photo shows table and extended bed options

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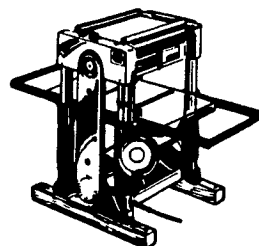
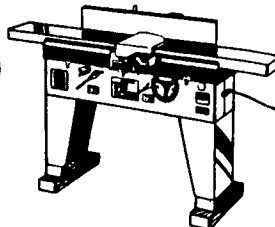
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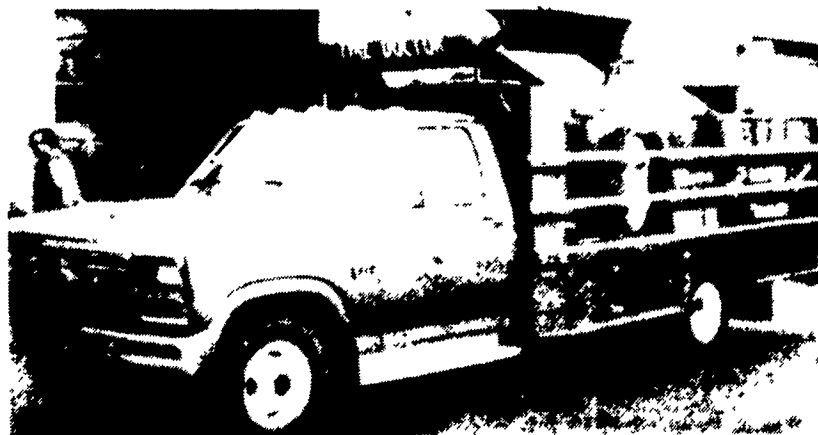
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