

Are Apples Safe To Eat?

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre) — "In the last few weeks there has been a growing public controversy over the potential harmful effects of a chemical called Alar, which is used by apple growers to retain the crispness of their fruit as it goes to market. It is used primarily in the growing of Delicious, Stayman, and McIntosh apples. "The federal government believes that it is safe for Americans to eat apples, and the responsible federal agencies are working together to reassure the public of this fact.

"Recently, the Natural Resources Defense Council has claimed that children face a massive public health problem from pesticide residues in food. Data used by NRDC, which claims cancer risks from Alar are 100 times higher than independent scientific advisory board created by Congress. Alar has been used for decades in apple growing, and it has been the subject of many studies on possible harmful side effects.

"A recent progress report on preliminary results from an ongoing study shows that a breakdown product of Alar caused certain

kinds of tumors in mice. Based on this report, EPA has begun the process to phase-out Alar in apple growing if the final data, which will be independently reviewed, demonstrates a need for cancellation. Cancellation could then occur by July 1990."

EPA believes the potential risk from Alar is not of sufficient certainty and magnitude to require immediate suspension of the use of this chemical. EPA and others have pointed to lack of scientific validity in the suggestion by the NRDC that the risk is much greater than has been stated by EPA. The Food and Drug Admini-

stration of the Department of Health and Human Services, the agency responsible for monitoring pesticide residues in food, found either no residues or residues that are far below EPA's tolerance. Both FDA and EPA believe that Alar use over this interim period is safe and does not pose a health risk to the American public. Available data show overwhelmingly that apples carry very small amounts of Alar. In addition, its use has decreased dramatically over the past several years; estimates are that 95 percent of the apple crop was not treated in 1988.

rough and are not precise predictions of human disease. Because of conservative assumptions used by EPA, actual risks may be lower or even zero. "The FDA, EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture believe there is not an imminent hazard posed to children in the consumption of apples at this time, despite claims to the contrary."

Therefore, the Federal Government encourages school systems and others responsible for the diets of children to continue to serve apples and other nutritious fruit to American children. This is an issue that will continue to be monitored closely by the responsible federal agencies that have acted in the past to cancel pesticide uses which pose a cancer risk.

"It should also be noted that risk estimates for Alar and other pesticides based on animal testing are

Homemaker's Day Luncheon

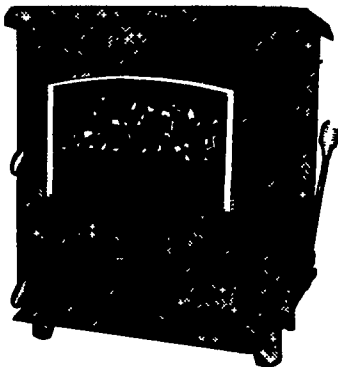
CREAMERY (Montgomery) — Penn State Cooperative Extension is holding their annual spring Homemakers Day luncheon on Thursday, April 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gypsy Rose Hotel, Rt. 113, Rahns. The program for the day will include "LaRue's Doll Revue," a historic look at dolls by LaRue Boswell; "Planning for the Future" by Judy Suhy, financial planner; and a bridal style show by

the Harleysville Bridal Shoppe featuring styles for mother of the bride as well as bride and attendants. There will also be a display of crafts and a raffle benefiting the 4-H Center.

Cost for the day is \$9.75 and includes the luncheon. Deadline for tickets is April 3. For more information, contact the extension office at 489-4315.

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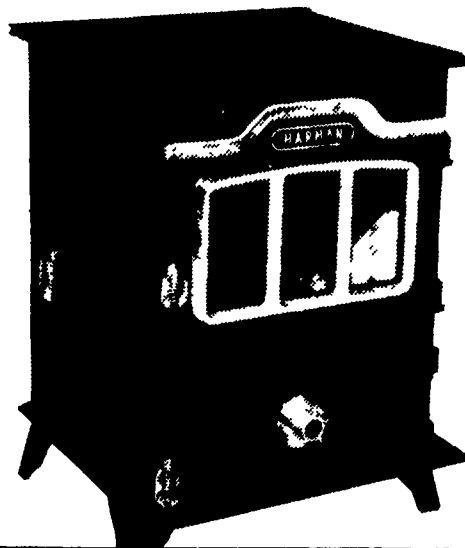
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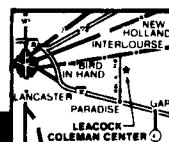
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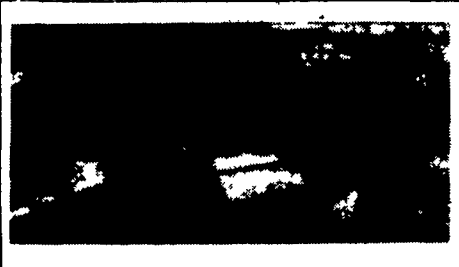
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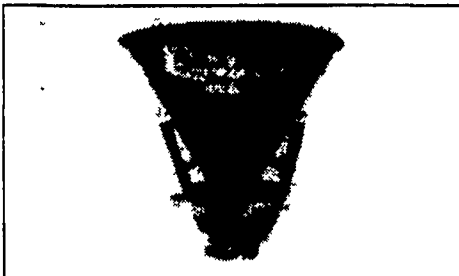
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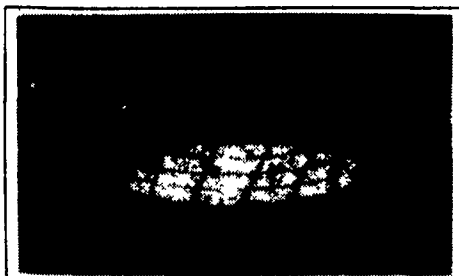
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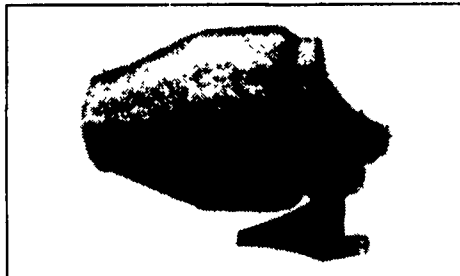
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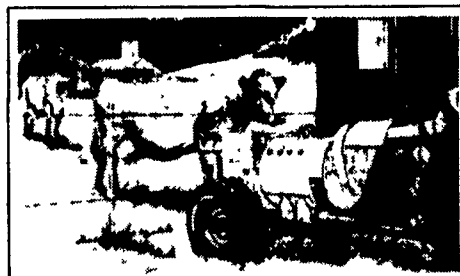
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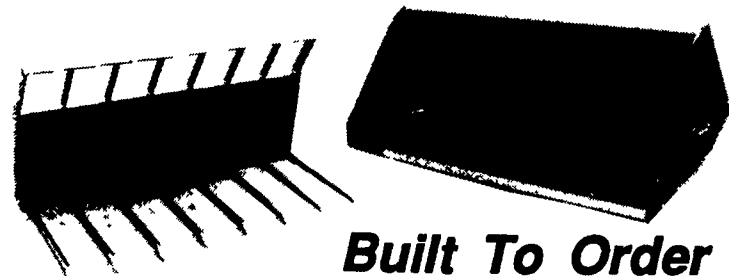
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