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Penn State Poultry Pointers

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PREVENTING HEALTH PROBLEMS IN BACKYARD FLOCKS

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The Penn State Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory sees a number of cases from small backyard flocks. The following case represents a typical submission.

On April 12, 1989 a shipment consisting of a single dead, mature, red-feathered bantam hen arrived at the lab.

A brief accompanying letter contained the following information: *These people have had a problem in their chickens for sev-*

eral years. They say it started with some chickens that were given to them. It has now spread to all the birds. The lesions start on the legs and eventually destroy the skin and then the bone. On some of the chickens, one leg will be completely destroyed due to fractures. These birds will then go around on one leg.

The bird was diagnosed as having scaly leg mite, an easily recognizable and treatable health problem. Proper health control measures would have prevented the

problem which caused the devastating lesions in this flock.

The most important health control measures backyard flock owners can take to prevent health problems in their existing flocks is to carefully examine and to isolate any new birds before adding them to their flock. This practice is a simple but effective means of preventing serious flock health problems.

It is particularly important for any birds obtained from a poultry auction but, as seen in this case, even from well-meaning friends. Thus, isolate any new birds for at least two weeks and preferably four weeks before adding them to an existing flock.

Also, backyard flock owners should seek help before any disease reaches such devastating proportions in a flock. The first source of help should be the county extension office. These people can provide a variety of information on all aspects of poultry raising. They can even arrange to have your flock examined or have birds sent to the diagnostic laboratory.

Susquehanna Co. Selects Dairy Day Committee

MONTROSE (Susquehanna Co.) — The committee for the 1991 Susquehanna County Dairy Day to be held on Friday, March 15, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Elk Lake High School has been announced by the Susquehanna County Cooperative Extension.

The committee members are Dave Andre, Don Birchard, Dan Bonham, Bob Davenport, Peggy Empet, Robert Fearnley, Dave Hibbard, Don Hibbard, Ted Hirsch, Tom Page, Lloyd Pease, Al Roszel, Ann Wells, Ron White, and Gerry Verboys.

This committee has been involved with obtaining speakers and exhibitors. They will also be

involved in several ways at the event, including lunch, seating, exhibitor setup, door prizes, dairy product handouts, and other items.

The program at Dairy Day will include educational presentations; commercial exhibits; milk, ice cream and cheese bar; door prizes; dinner; and a report from Jody Williams, Susquehanna County Dairy Princess, and Misty Baker, Susquehanna County Alternate Dairy Princess.

Dairy farm people interested in attending are urged to make dinner reservations by calling the extension office at (717) 278-1158.

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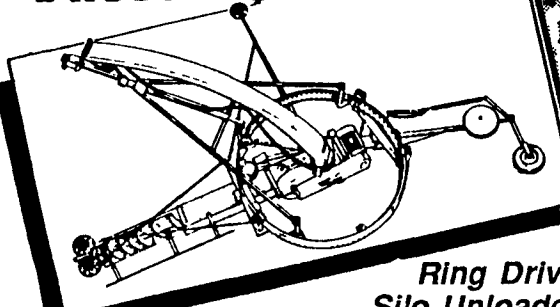
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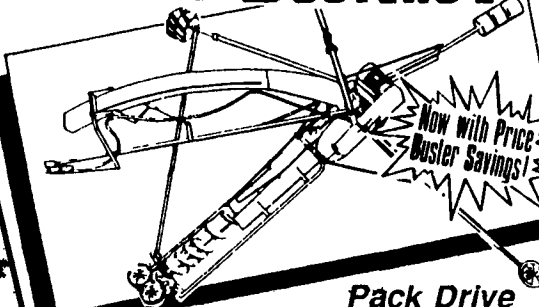
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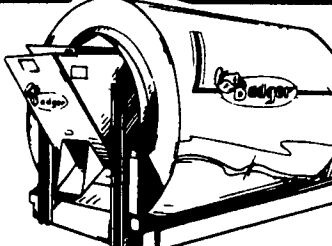
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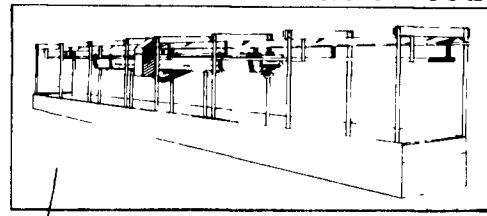
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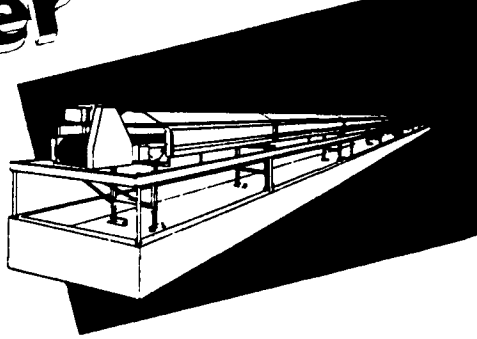
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