

New Frozen Yogurt

(Continued from Page B12)

type of product the public would be interested in, and if it met the Haagen-Dazs image," she said.

She also worked on two other Extraas flavors that Haagen-Dazs was already developing. She did stability testing on Brownie Nut Blast, a chocolate frozen yogurt with brownie chunks and pecans, and Raspberry Rendezvous, vanilla frozen yogurt swirled with raspberry sorbet. "The frozen yogurt base has four percent fat, and the raspberry sorbet is fat-free," making the complete product very low in fat, Keener noted.

Keener's experience at Haagen-Dazs cemented her interest in product development. The skills she learned as an intern can be applied to any food, she said.

This past summer Keener was an intern at M&M/Mars in Elizabethtown, where she did lab research on one of the major chocolate brands, exploring various

properties of chocolate. And, "the place smelled wonderful," she said.

The M&M/Mars job was more research-oriented than her Haagen-Dazs experience; she ran experiments and analyzed products she made. Here also, she had to taste her creations. While readily admitting to being a chocoholic, Keener said she "tried not to always consume the product. You start to pay for it after awhile."

The daughter of D. Mark and Elisabeth Keener of Chambersburg, Keener was recently accepted at Kansas State University's graduate school in the field of grain science. She would like to work as a product developer for a food company that markets complex carbohydrate foods such as cookies, cakes and crackers.

Calling her internships "wonderful opportunities that I snatched up," Keener said that

such work experiences "are great for applying classroom knowledge to the real world of the food industry. In school, we learned a lot of theory, but we didn't get to make new foods."

While she may not have been creating new taste sensations at Penn State, she was part of the school's long-standing ice cream tradition. She worked in the Creamery one summer helping to process dairy products. Later, she gave tours to visitors, explaining how raw milk from the school's dairy herd was transformed into ice cream and cheese.

Keener's association with Penn State started while she was still a student at Chambersburg Area Senior High School. Between her junior and senior year, she attended the five-week Pennsylvania Governor's School for the agricultural sciences at Penn State.

This experience clinched her decision to be a food science major, she said. She especially

enjoyed the "From Bean to Bar" lab at the Governor's School, where students process cocoa.

"This was an aspect of agriculture that I hadn't been exposed to

before," she said. "There's a lot of chocolate research going on here. The American Cocoa Research Institute is part of the Food Science department here."

Tractor Manufacturer Offers Seat For Extra Rider

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Farm equipment manufacturers are taking steps to improve tractor safety by offering models equipped with an extra seat. But the ability of these devices to reduce fatalities remains unknown, says a safety expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Each year, approximately 300 American farmers die in tractor accidents," says Dr. Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering. "Some of the saddest incidents involve extra riders who fall from moving equipment and are crushed."

Some 1993 tractors now include a passenger seat with a seat belt. "So far, only one U.S. tractor manufacturer sells models equipped with a passenger seat," Murphy says. "Whether others will follow remains to be seen."

It is common practice for tractors sold in some European countries to have a passenger seat, but American farm safety professionals are just beginning to debate the merits of the device.

By offering an extra seat, U.S. tractor makers are acknowledging that farmers do not always choose the safest course of action. "An extra person will ride on a tractor for various reasons, including instruction or convenience," Murphy says. "Allowing an extra rider on a tractor can become deadly.

Unfortunately, it happens. For instance, employees will ride on a tractor for transportation around the farmstead and the field."

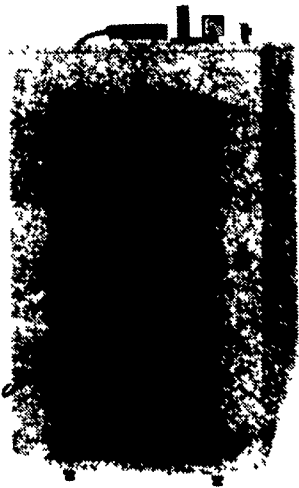
Murphy says that the best policy remains keeping extra riders off a tractor. "But if people aren't willing to do that, at least this seat offers some protection. The passenger seats are available only in tractors that have an enclosed cab with a rollover protection structure, or ROPS, which prevents the rider from falling into the path of the tractor.

"The seat's design also discourages long rides, which is good," Murphy says. "It's too early to say these seats are absolutely safe, but they do provide a safer location for a passenger than those typically selected on tractors without provisions for a rider."

A property positioned passenger is less likely to hamper the safe operation of the controls or obstruct the operator's vision. "If an accident does occur, the passenger is less likely to be injured in a passenger seat with the seat belt secured than in any unrestrained location," Murphy says.

However, Murphy fears that some farmers will abuse the device. "The seat is designed only for short rides and is not intended for children," he says. "If farmers don't respect those limitations, tragedies may result."

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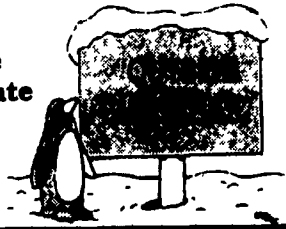
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