

Jackpot Show In York

YORK (York Co.) — Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 30.

That's the date of the Keystone National Rib Cookoff and Music Fest's Jackpot Show, featuring the supreme champion selection of

barrows, steers, and wethers, at the York Fairgrounds.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association, the Jackpot Show is open to youth ages 8-19 (as of show day), with guaranteed jackpots totalling \$1,700. Included

are guaranteed premiums, from \$25 for first place to \$5 for fifth.

Judge for the steer show is Brian Fitzgerald, West Grove. Dick Kuzemchak, Pleasant Gap, will judge the wether show. Barrows will be judged by Frank Feeser,

Scientists Tackle Dead Bird Disposal

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Candy bars may help poultry farmers deal with a serious problem — what to do with all their dead birds.

Penn State poultry scientist Paul Patterson is researching environmentally sound and cost-effective methods for dead bird and hatchery waste disposal. Among the most promising is fermenting the waste and recycling its nutrients back in the the feed stream.

This is where the candy bars come in. Patterson's approach is to grind and mix the carcasses with a carbohydrate — in this case, candy bar waste from a confections company — and ferment the mixture in a sealed, anaerobic container.

Early studies show that broilers fed a diet containing up to 30 percent of these fermented by-products perform as well as those receiving corn and soybean rations. "If this process were used to recycle all the dead birds that are now buried or incinerated," Patterson said, "it could reclaim more than \$100 million worth of nutrients a year."

Besides wasting valuable nutrients, traditional disposal methods can cause environmental problems. "Burying dead birds can

contribute to groundwater contamination," said Patterson, assistant professor of poultry science in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "Burning them is expensive and can cause odor problems. With concern for air and water quality rising, these practices are declining."

Poultry mortality rates from disease and other causes can reach 5 percent for broilers and up to 7 percent for layers. Nationally, more than 360 million birds weighing a combined 470,000 tons die prematurely each year. Hatchery waste, including eggshells, unhatched eggs and dead birds, presents a similar disposal problem.

Pennsylvania has one of the largest poultry industries in the country. With more than 140 million chickens and turkeys, the state's producers must dispose of millions of dead birds annually.

"Rendering, or recycling carcasses by cooking, has been used for years," Patterson said. "But traditional rendering presents problems. Transportation costs can be high, especially for farmers located outside or near the edge of a rendering company's hauling radius.

"The farmer must pay to refrigerate the carcasses between pick-

ups," he said. "And because dead birds often have viruses or bacteria, transporting them could spread diseases to other farms."

Using the fermenting process, farmers could store this material at room temperature without fear of spoilage until enough has accumulated to make transporting it to a rendering facility economical. "The acidic conditions also preserve nutrients and kill most disease pathogens," said Patterson.

Composting is another dead bird disposal option that is growing in popularity. "Composting is not a new technology, but it's a proven one," said John Schwartz, director of Penn State Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County.

In this method, dead birds are layered in a bin with manure and poultry litter or straw. "During composting, the temperature reaches up to 140 degrees," said Schwartz. "That kills any disease microorganisms and reduces fly problems."

After seven to 10 days, the material is moved to a second bin, where the cycle is repeated. "When it's finished, you have an inert, humus-like material that makes an excellent soil amendment," Schwartz said.

Taneytown, Md.

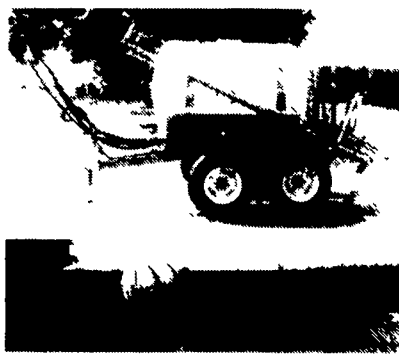
For more information, contact Chester D. Hughes, show manager, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd.,

Room 1, Lancaster, PA 17601, (717) 394-6851 or Cathy Stewart, PLA Youth Committee Chairman, 555 Willow St., Lebanon, PA 17046, (717) 274-6911.



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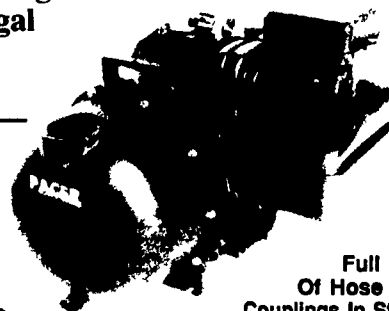
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