Money Made Available For Plum Pox

(Continued from Page A1)

helped to shield the rest of the industry from this disease."

This virus infects many stone fruit species including peaches, apricots, plums, and almonds. Fruit from infected trees may be deformed or blemished with spots or rings. The virus also can cause fruit to drop prematurely from the tree. Currently, the only way to stop the spread of the virus is to destroy infected and exposed trees. Plum Pox was discovered in Adams County, in the fall of 1999. Prior to the discovery in Pennsylvania, plum pox had not been detected in the United States. USDA is mounting an inten-

sive survey and eradication program in and around the infected area. Earlier this year, USDA provided \$3.6 million for local, regional and national surveys and research, which to date has shown that the disease has not spread to other regions. Following the issuance of rules by USDA, the federal funding announced this week, will be available to growers in various size payments depending on the total acres of infected trees that are discovered in each grower's



Year 2000 Maryland Farm Bureau Queen To Be Named At The 119th **Maryland State Fair**

Twenty-three young women between the ages of 16-19 who have earned their place in the Year 2000 Maryland Farm Bureau Queen Contest by winning their county Farm Bureau-

sponsored contests will compete for the Maryland Farm Bureau Queen title, scholarship, and cash awards valued up to

The reigning Maryland Farm Queen, Evelyn Hardman of Allegany County, will have the honor of passing her title on to her successor, the Year 2000 Maryland Farm Bureau Queen, at the Maryland Farm Bureau Queen Contest, Friday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Horse Sales Pavilion.

"It has been a wonderful and educational experience to travel throughout the State of Maryland to represent our State's number one industry — agriculture," said 1999 Maryland State Farm Queen Evelyn Hardman. "I hope many people will join

me as I pass on my title to the first Maryland Farm Bureau Oueen of the Millennium."

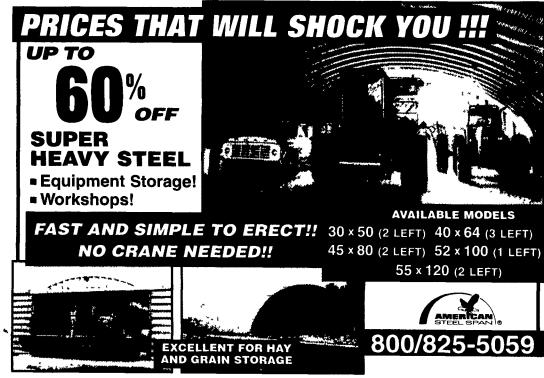
The 23 Maryland County Farm Bureau Queens will be critiqued, during a two-day competition, primarily on their agricultural knowledge and experience, civic involvement, appearance, poise communication skills.

The 2000 Maryland Farm Bureau Queen will be present throughout the run of the State Fair to award prizes, and mingle with fairgoers, dignitaries, and media representatives. Her responsibilities will continue throughout the year, as she will participate in a number of activities representing Maryland agriculture. The runners-up will assist the Maryland Farm Bureau Queen with award presentations and serve as hostess for dignitaries.

The 119th Maryland State Fair, which will offer a variety of livestock and horse shows, midway rides, thoroughbred horse racing, arts and crafts and home arts' exhibits, runs from Friday, Aug. 25 through Monday, Sept. 4 at the Timonium Fairgrounds in Baltimore









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