

## Agriculture Secretary Reminds Growers, Homeowners About Planting Restrictions

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes reminded growers, business owners, and homeowners in the quarantine zones in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, and York counties of restrictions on planting trees and shrubs that are susceptible to plum pox virus.

"Plum pox virus is a serious threat to the stone fruit industry of Pennsylvania," Hayes said. "The goal of the Department of Agriculture is to lead the fight in eradicating this devastating virus. To do this, we need the help of everyone in the quarantine zones. We don't want to re-infect our orchards once they are free of plum pox virus, nor do we want reservoirs of infection to be lurking in landscape trees around homes and businesses."

"By working together and abiding by current planting restrictions, we can avoid future plum pox outbreaks and the tremendous economic hardships they bring fruit growers."

The plum pox quarantine covers the following areas: the townships of Huntington and Latimore, portions of Menallen and Tyrone townships, and the Borough of York Springs in Adams County; the townships of

Dickinson, South Middleton, and Southampton, as well as Mount Holly Springs Borough in Cumberland County; Mont Alto Borough and Quincy Township in Franklin County;

and Washington and Franklin townships in York County.

Hayes noted that this spring, the Department of Agriculture will continue to survey all

homes, businesses, and commercial orchards within plum pox quarantine zones.

"The restrictions on plantings in the quarantine zones eliminate the addition of new host

plants and shrubs susceptible to plum pox, thus speeding up eradication of the disease while enabling us to conduct a more effective survey," Hayes said.

## Enough Is Enough, Says Ag Engineer

**ST. JOSEPH, Mich.** — Farm parents, influential agricultural organizations, and other leaders must take a stand in preventing childhood fatalities on farms, says one agricultural engineer. Until they do, the current rate of such tragic losses — about 100 child deaths annually in the U.S. — will likely continue.

Writing in the February issue of "Resource" magazine, John Shutske, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of agricultural engineering at the University of Minnesota, says that better engineering and educational programs can only go so far. Farm families and rural-community leaders must take a tough stand and say, "Enough is enough!"

"Community leaders must partner with farm families to get at the real roots of these issues and help find acceptable, effective, appropriate solutions,"

says Shutske.

Better laws, enforcement of existing laws, and better engineering, Shutske argues, cannot feasibly address the range of hazards and inherent dangers that exist in a farming environment. Design solutions can prevent some tragedies, he says, "But to expect an agricultural engineer to design a livestock facility, grain storage structure or machine that will prevent injury to a young child seems an unreasonable expectation."

Educational programs, too, have limitations, although they are a valuable ancillary tool in promoting safe practices. The University of Minnesota, Shutske says, is a leader in offering programs that educate parents and children alike on hazards of farming, and in particular helps parents correlate tasks to the stages of child development. Such knowledge helps

parents assign tasks that are age-appropriate and protect children, especially younger children and toddlers, from situations that they are not developmentally capable of handling.

Nevertheless, education, as well as laws and engineering, are only tools in the prevention of farm fatalities: Parents and community leaders must assume the primary role in the effort by taking a stand and focusing on the underlying issues that contribute to farm tragedies. If they don't, warns Shutske, "Farming will continue to be one of the na-

tion's most dangerous industries."

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers is a professional and technical organization dedicated to the advancement of engineering applicable to agricultural, food, and biological systems. Founded in 1907 and headquartered in St. Joseph, Mich., ASAE comprises 9,000 members representing more than 90 countries. For further information about the Society, contact Dolores Landeck at ASAE, (616) 428-6339, landeck@asae.org.

## Special Meeting Conducted On Codorus Creek Watershed

**YORK (York Co.)** — The Codorus Creek Watershed Association conducted a special meeting Feb. 11 with representa-

tives from York City, including the mayor; numerous municipalities; industries; county planners, engineers; and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, gave a presentation relating their availability and willingness to partner with CCWA in making improvements to the flood control banks in York City. Options for improvements were explained as well as funding methods. Their work in assessment of the channel would be cost free. The Corps can also partner with CCWA for restoration projects elsewhere in the watershed.

The Association's winter meeting took place Feb. 19 at the P.H. Glatfelter Company. The meeting began with a tour, followed by a program at 7 p.m. presented by Glatfelter representatives on the progress of their New Century Project.

To join the Association, contact Ryan Ural at the York Water Company at (717) 845-3601 for membership information.

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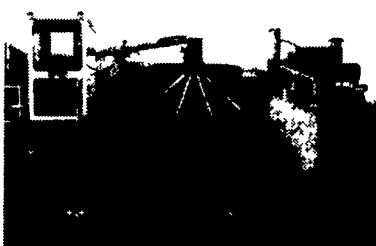
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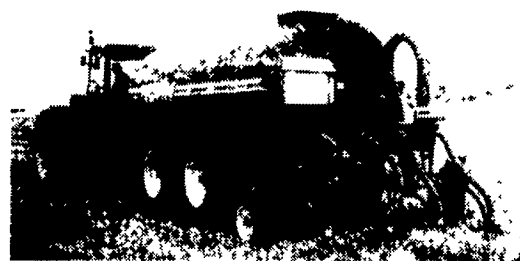


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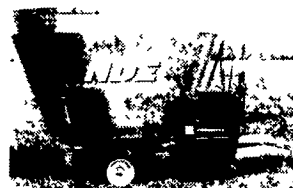
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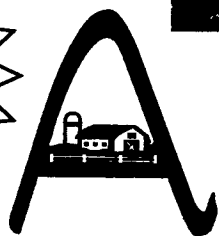


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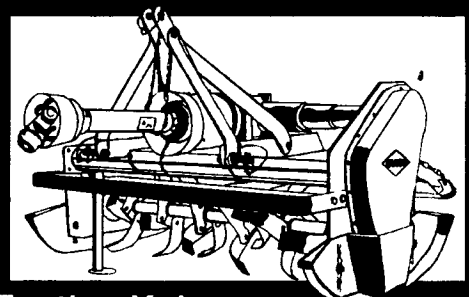
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