

GRADE SUPERVISORS FOR POTATOES LICENSED

In meeting a wartime emergency in the state's food production effort, approximately 125 persons have passed a practical test as potato grade supervisors at one of 14 one-day marketing and training schools...

PA. HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES SAFETY RECORD LAUDED

Secretary John U. Shroyer commended employees of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways this week for their excellent safety record and said they have no means of placing the Department in the forefront in accident prevention work.

"It is not unusual for the Department of Highway employees to establish an outstanding safety record," Shroyer said. "But it is particularly gratifying at this time when the urgency of the war effort demands extra care to avoid any interruption of production as a result of accidents affecting manpower, to know that safety record can be maintained."

Early this year the Secretary commended employees for establishing an all time low record in lost time accidents, both in number and proportion to man-hours worked.

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Faster Than Sound



LIEUT. ROBERT H. KNAPP, Army flier of Norwich, N. Y., is credited by intelligence officers with having flown at the rate of 840 miles an hour, the fastest speed ever reached by man and faster than the speed of sound...

TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE HEAVILY CUT

Tuberculosis infection in cattle on Pennsylvania farms has been reduced by more than 88 per cent in seven years, according to Dr. H. C. Kutz, Chief of the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, State Department of Agriculture.

Pennsylvania has been a Modified Accredited State since 1936 and the percentage of reactors has been reduced to one-half of 1 per cent and lower, showing that by continuing the tuberculin testing throughout the State the cattle now are comparatively free of tuberculosis, Dr. Kutz explained.

During 1935 a total of 655,894 cattle were tested in Pennsylvania and of these 15,079 showed the presence of tuberculosis and were removed from herds. In 1942 number of cattle tested by State and Federal Bureaus of Animal Industry and practicing veterinarians totaled 547,711.

"To reduce the tuberculosis infection in cattle to a greater extent," says Dr. Kutz, in a new Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bulletin on Tuberculosis of Livestock and Poultry, published as General Bulletin No. 500, "it is essential and necessary to continue the good work by tuberculin testing the cattle periodically. If we relinquish our efforts sooner or later the tuberculosis infection among cattle will be as great as before the eradication campaign campaign started."

"The Pennsylvania control program has proved conclusively that by a coordinate program supported by cattle owners, agricultural agencies, veterinarians, physicians and the public at large, tuberculosis and other diseases affecting livestock and poultry can be controlled."

AUTUMN COLORING DUE TO CHEMICAL CHANGE, NOT FROST

"Jack Frost can whitewash the autumn woods but he cannot paint them," James A. Kell, Secretary of the State Department of Forests and Waters, says.

"Ripening of the leaves is the cause of the change in color of the forest foliage and not the action of frost," he added. The green coloring matter of leaves is known as chlorophyll, which is the only substance in the world which can make starch or sugar, both primary products in the economy of all plants as well as mankind.

It is made during the entire growing season. Frost may hasten the action but it does not produce the brilliant colors. With the arrival of autumn and colder weather the normal activities of the leaf are greatly slowed up and the death of the leaf may occur independently of frost. It is then that the remnant of leaf-green decomposes and lifts as a curtain to show the vivid hues beneath. Chemical changes in the mineral substances within the minute leaf cells produce the shades of color.

Leaves fall from the trees because they are worn out and have been drained of all the pulp that was stored in the twig. The leaf has done its work, and the tree lets it go, because with the coming of cooler weather growth must stop. It is nature's frugal way to save all the useful green leaf pulp.

DROUGHT WEAKENS TREES—FEEDING IN FALL IS ADVISED

The unusually dry weather during the summer and early fall weakened many ornamental and shade trees throughout the state, Research Forester Albert B. Mickalitis, of the Department of Forests and Waters, declares.

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The long drought will lower the efficiency of root systems of some trees in supplying sufficient water and mineral nutrients to the new growth next spring he added. Weakened valuable trees can often be saved by applying rotted manure, peat, composts, cottonseed meal, soybean meal and other organic matter to the soil during the fall. About one pound of either of these fertilizers can be safely and advantageously applied to each thirty or forty square feet of ground area under a tree's crown. There are also many good commercial fertilizer mixtures and plant foods that could be used for this purpose. The quantities of these materials which are desirable or can be safely applied vary greatly but recommended amounts are usually designated by the dealers. An effective fertilizer can be made by mixing equal portions of nitrate of soda, muriate of potash, ground bonemeal and acid phosphate. This is applied to the soil in proportion of one pound to sixty square feet. The fertilizer that is chosen can be forked into the soil, placed in holes made with a circular tool or scattered over the ground surface. Most satisfactory results are obtained by applying fertilizers on soil which has been well watered. Maintaining a mulch of leaves, woods mulch or other organic matter during the winter is also helpful in reviving feeble or sickly trees. The mulch should have a depth of several inches and cover the area under the spread of a tree's crown. Dead or diseased branches can be pruned and burned at practically any time of the year. Cuts having diameters of two inches or more should be properly coated with orange shellac, or other suitable wound dressing. Nitrate of soda applied at any time from April 1 to July 1, is especially valuable as a quick acting food to trees and shrubs weakened by drought, disease, insect injury, or malnutrition. Approximately one-fourth lb. of nitrate of soda for each year of a tree's age is a sufficient amount to use.