

## FROM FIELD AND DESK

Boyd Kidwell, Upper South Editor

### Tater Tots Are Budding

A new variety of gold-fleshed potato has taken Europe by storm. And Virginia Extension horticulturists say the golden spuds are well suited for commercial production in western Virginia.

The climate in that part of the state puts growers there in a market window. National supplies of potatoes are usually dwindling at this area's harvest time. Golden potatoes bruise easily and aren't suited for mechanical harvesting or for the warmer climate of eastern Virginia.

### Iron Curtain Meltdown

Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture, Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., is pleased with the thaw in relations between the U.S. and the Commu-

nist bloc countries.

Following a trade mission to Eastern Europe in 1990, the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland initiated cooperative projects.

In Hungary, ag experts from the university are working with an American businessman to develop a 6,000-acre farm. A Maryland poultry processor may enter into a joint venture with the Polish Government. And Maryland farm families will be hosts to 10 Soviet students this summer.

### Virginia Issues TB Alert

Virginia cattle have been free of tuberculosis since 1988. Earlier this year, the State Veterinarian's Office issued a disease alert to protect that status.

The alert was issued after tuberculosis was diagnosed in two herds in Johnston County, N.C.

Under the alert, cattle imported for dairy or breeding purposes must meet strict requirements, including a

certificate of veterinary inspection. Feeder cattle may enter the state without a negative TB test, but they can't be pastured or fed in an area close to dairy or breeding herds.

For more information on cattle movement under the disease alert, contact the Office of the State Veterinarian at 804-786-2481.

### Soyoil Fries the Doughnut

The smell of fresh doughnuts greeted early visitors to the 1991 Delmarva Corn and Soybean Technology Conference in Salisbury, Md. Soybean growers thought the doughnuts tasted especially good because they were cooked in soyoil.

Local soybean associations cooked the doughnuts as a way of letting the people know the good taste of foods fried in soyoil. Consumers must agree. Conference visitors ate 310 dozen doughnuts that day, noted Jerry Kennedy, executive director of the Mid-Atlantic and Virginia Soybean Association.

## Winner Named for Our "Say It for Safety" Slogan Contest

Last fall, *Progressive Farmer* asked children aged 12 and under to enter a "Say It for Safety" slogan contest as part of a special series on farm safety. Emily Poteet, 11, of Cleveland, Tenn., won the contest with her entry, "Taking Chances? Not on Your Life."

As the winner, she received a \$100 savings bond and a *Progressive Farmer* certificate of appreciation.

The contest was held to promote farm safety awareness among children. One of the contestants personally experienced a farm mishap.

"John was run over with a disk when he was 5 years old," explained John's father, Gerald Ascherl, in the note he included with his son's submission. John, 7, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, entered the slogan, "Don't Fix Machinery When It's Running."

"He spent three days in the hospital but recovered well," Gerald

wrote about his son.

Contestant Joni Gary, 12, of Rayne, La., thought about how fortunate her family was when she made her submission, "Safety 1st Because You're No. 1."

Congratulations to Emily for her winning entry and to all the children who entered the contest. In our book, they are all winners.

*In addition to the winning entry, Emily Poteet also penned the runner-up safety slogan. "Think Safety. You Might Not Live To Regret It," it read. Photo: Steve Poteet*



### Say Safety With Stickers



Readers may recall the "Be Careful—We Need You" stickers that *Progressive Farmer* offered in the farm safety series published last fall. So far, 33,939 of the vinyl stickers have been sent in response to requests from individual farmers and their families, students and teachers, medical professionals, and others.

For a small charge, the organi-

zation Farm Safety for "Just Kids" also offers stickers with a safety message. The organization was founded by Marilyn Adams of Earlham, Iowa, after her 11-year-old son Keith suffocated in a gravity-flow corn wagon. (See "It's a Parent's Responsibility," October 1990.)

For stickers and membership information, write to Farm Safety for "Just Kids," Box 458, Earlham, IA 50072; or you may phone 515-758-2827.