



PROVING THAT BASS do well in a farm pond gave wildlife specialist Bob Weingard a good excuse to limber up his casting arm at two pond management meetings held last week. This is the pond at

the Joseph M. Brubaker farm, R3 Lititz. Weingard and County Agent Max M. Smith caught several of the bass, but this being the closed season, they went right back into the pond. (LF Photo)

## Fire Protection, Recreation Offered By Well Constructed Farm Pond

A good farm pond serves more than one purpose if constructed and maintained correctly, said two Penn State specialists at meetings held last week.

They said that fire protection, water for livestock and recreation can be provided by the average farm pond if planning and fore-

thought are used.

The specialists, Joe McCurdy, agricultural engineer, and Robert Weingard, wildlife specialist, met with County farmers at the LeRoy Andrews farm, R7 Lancaster, and at the Joseph M. Brubaker farm, R3 Lititz.

McCurdy listed three essentials

to be kept in mind when building a pond. They are the source of water, the location, and manner of construction.

He said that a spring that will give a steady two inch flow of water is the best source for a pond. Next best is a stream that can be partially diverted to provide a constant flow of water into the pond.

Least favorable is a pond dependent on surface run-off. Such run-off should be from a well sodded waterway, and even at best, the pond is likely to become stagnated and subject to marked changes in the water level.

The pond should be located close to the farm buildings, McCurdy said. There should be a road built to the pond that will carry a fire truck if the need should arise.

A drain pipe is also a necessity, he said. This will allow the pond to be drained to control weed growth, keep the fish population under control and allow for periodic cleaning.

Topsoil in fill dirt for the dam can run a pond, McCurdy said. The fill should be of the heaviest clay available. Then it should be packed to make the dam permanently water tight.

He suggests construction of a dam that is six to 10 feet wide on top with a two to one slope on the wet side and three to one on the dry side. On the wet side, the fill should be cut away so that here is a two foot drop as soon as possible. This deep water close to the edge of the bank will keep down weed growth.

An emergency spillway away from the fill with a six inch higher overflow than the normal water level is also required for proper construction. This grassland spillway will carry away excess water in times of heavy rainfall that might cut away the fill if the pond is allowed to overflow.

Weingard said, in discussing the recreational possibilities of a farm pond, that almost any warm water fish will live in a farm pond. However, the recommended stocking is a combination of small-mouth bass and bluegill.

With this combination, the bluegill provide feed for the bass and at the same time provide a good supply of pan fish.

To keep the population of fish in balance, the pond must be fished hard, he said. About 300 bluegill should be taken out for each 25 bass caught. If the pond is not fished enough, the food supply will become exhausted, resulting in large numbers of undersized bluegill and bass. When the fish are properly harvested, both species will grow to a good pan size in a short length of time.

Trout stocking of farm ponds is not recommended for two reasons. First, the water tends to be too warm for trout and secondly,



THIS SMALLMOUTH bass was taken from the Joseph Brubaker, R3 Lititz, pond at a demonstration last week. The bass are raised with bluegill. In fishing a pond stocked with such a combination, about 300 bluegill must be taken for each 24 bass to keep the food supply in balance. (LF Photo)

the trout will not reproduce to supply a continuous amount of fishing.

To grow the one celled plants used as food by the fish, the pond must be fertilized, Weingard said. A hundred pounds of 8-8-4, or 5-10-5 plus 25 pounds of Ammonium nitrate added, per acre of

surface is a good fertilizer.

The fertilizer should be applied during warm weather whenever the pond does not show a greenish blue cast. The microscopic plant life should be so thick that objects more than 18 inches deep in the pond cannot be seen.



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