

## Penna. Farmers Use Poor Seed On Their Farms

HARRISBURG — Despite great strides ahead in farm efficiency, many farmers are still "way behind the times" in selecting seed for their farm crops, a State Department of Agriculture official said today.

Wendell P. Ditmer, botanist in charge of the Seed Testing Laboratory in the state Bureau of Plant Industry, branded as an "anachronism" the use of low quality seeds on farms that are mechanized, even automated, and are otherwise equipped for modern economical operation.

Fortunately, farmers generally realize the importance of using good seeds, and most seed dealers offer quality products, Ditmer concedes. But

he thinks there are too many exceptions.

Too often, Ditmer notes, farmers plant seed that was grown on their own farms or by their neighbors without its having been cleaned, treated, or tested. He urges, instead, that they take advantage of available quality seed that has been tested and properly labeled.

A random check by state inspectors on seeds that farmers were planting earlier this year showed only 46 per cent fit for planting. Similar checks gave farmers a 66 per cent score in 1961, 64 per cent in 1960.

On one farm visit, Ditmer relates, a check on oats being seeded showed only 34 per cent germination, and what was even worse — the lot of seed going into the ground contained 540 quackgrass seeds per pound. In another oats seeding operation each pound of seed contained 338 quack-

grass seeds and 266 mustard seeds.

A neighboring farmer was amazed to discover that red clover seed he was sowing contained 1,478 buckhorn plantain seeds per ounce. Even so, he was far outdone by still another farmer whose red clover seed contained 7,902 seeds per ounce of the same weed species.

The answer, Ditmer insists, is to plant only seed that has been properly tested and labeled in accordance with the Pennsylvania Seed Act. "Good stands for forage and small grain are not possible from seed that is low in germination or full of noxious weeds. Read the seed tag carefully. See that the seed comes from a reliable source."

The Navy Cross may be awarded to any person in the naval service who distinguishes himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operation against an armed enemy. The Navy Cross is awarded for combat only.

## Christmas Trees Are A Hazard If Neglected

A Christmas tree is a potential fire hazard in the home but need not be a danger if certain precautions are taken.

Ornamental horticulture specialists say that water, rather than the so-called "fire proofing" chemicals, should be used to lessen any fire dangers.

The following steps will help insure safety in handling and displaying the Christmas tree:

—Select a healthy, freshly-cut tree.

—Keep tree in water container in a cool, shady spot in the yard until ready to bring indoors. Sprinkle daily with water.

—When bringing tree indoors, saw off butt end about one inch above original cut. This aids in water absorption.

—Stand tree in water-filled container that properly supports the tree. Place in area away from fireplaces, radiators

or other sources of heat.

—Check electrical wiring to be sure it is safe. Never use decorations such as candles that have an open flame or those made from a flammable material.

—Do not let wrapping paper or similar combustible materials accumulate around the tree.

### Bag Quilting

In grandmother's day, every household had a quilt bag . . . but today many homes have bag quilts instead.

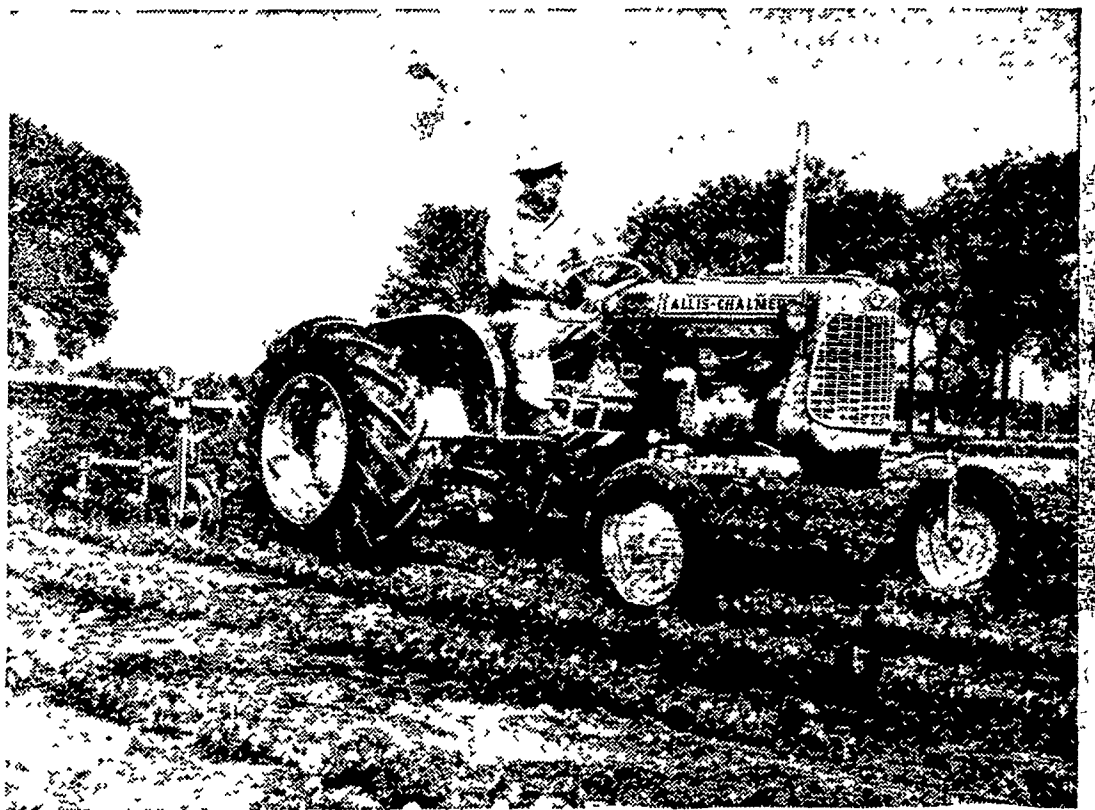
Made from cotton feed and flour bags printed in a six-block Early American design, the quilts have a hand-pieced look. Six to nine bags are required to make the quilt, which is easy to assemble and finish.

In addition to quilt-printed bags, many feed and flour bags feature patchwork prints which adapt beautifully to quilts . . . and also make attractive chair covers, cafe curtains, and dressing table skirts.



LARRY WEAVER, PRESIDENT of the Grasslands Future Farmer chapter, left, presents an FFA jacket to the newly-elected chapter sweetheart during an assembly program at the Eastern Lancaster County High School Wednesday morning. Miss Linda Weaver, the 15 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carrol H. Weaver, Terre Hill, receives the jacket from the retiring sweetheart, Miss Cindy Miller, also of Terre Hill. Presentation was made during an FFA assembly program at the New Holland high school Wednesday morning. L. F. Photo.

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