

"Clip Artist" Selling Potatoes, Agriculture Department Reports

HARRISBURG - Reports of "bargain" potato sales by hucksters that backfired on consumers today prompted State Secretary of Agriculture Leland H. Bull to warn buyers against patronizing unidentified, fly-by-night vendors.

Secretary Bull asked that information on such sales be turned in to his department, but he admitted the "shifty, nimble methods used by these operators makes their apprehension especially difficult."

An equally effective way for curbing unscrupulous peddlers, he said, is to "starve them out" in a boycott, and to patronize only tradesmen who are locally established and are known to be reliable.

Pennsylvania growers joined consumers in voicing the complaint, pointing out additionally that sale of low grade or quality potatoes harms the whole potato industry.

While most known instances of unfair practices were attributed to out-of-state origins, growers said purchasers are unaware of this and usually assume erroneously that the potatoes they bought and had to throw away were produced locally.

Secretary Bull added that attempts by such peddlers to "make a fast buck" are not limited to potato hucksters, but are all too common in many different commodities.

Potato producers, represented by the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc., and Secretary Bull together explored ways also for developing a marketing program that would suit requirements of large buyers. Owen L. Barkley, Harrisburg, PCPG general manager, declared that unless growers are willing to merge in marketing their crops they may see their efforts submerged.

Survey Shows Fish Ponds Are Crowded

Lakes and ponds usually have too many fish in them to provide good fishing. That's the observation of Edwin L. Cooper, research zoologist with the Agricultural Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State University.

Fish counts by Cooper and associates reveal that lakes or ponds, closed to fishing, seldom produce "lunkers" or big ones because of intense competition for food. Natural reproduction, they point out, usually produces too many fish.

"Our experiments show that medium sized and large bass should be harvested continually to make food available for other bass to grow," Dr. Cooper states.

His studies indicate that food is more important than age in determining size. A poorly fed bass will seldom get to 10 inches long in 3 years, he observed.

serves. A very well-fed bass could mature at 10 inches in one year.

In one study, Cooper found that 5,500 bass of 5-inch length populated a 3-acre experimental pond in the spring. Of these, 4,600 or 84 per cent were removed, leaving 900. Fish counts in the fall revealed 830 well-fed, two-year-old bass — all about 8 inches long. Their total weight was three-fourths that of the entire spring population. Moreover, the 830 well-fed survivors had spawned a new crop of fingerlings, making the total fall weight of fish equal to the spring weight.

Further experiments will stress various levels of harvesting fish and the effect upon future crops.

Southern Co. Holstein Club Adds Members

By Mary Ann Cooper, reporter

Ten new members were added to the rolls by the Southern Lancaster County 4-H Holstein club at a recent meeting in the Solanco High School.

Robert Wenger, president, was in charge of the meeting and associate county agent, Victor Plastow, explained the dairy club handbook.

A fitting and showing demonstration will be featured at the next meeting, May 7 at 8 p.m., at the home of J. Everett Kreider, Quarryville R1.

New Holland 4-H Elects

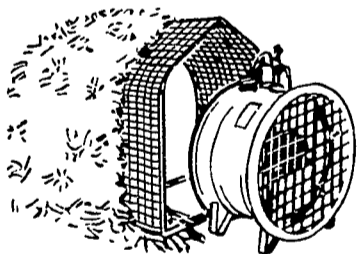
William Fisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fisher, East Earl R1, was elected president of the New Holland Community 4-H club Monday night at a reorganization meeting in the New Holland Bank building.

Other officers elected were vice president, Kenneth Lapp; secretary, Ruth Ann High; treasurer, Tony Folker; game leaders, Sandy and Michael Smucker; song leader, Mary Ann Wolgemuth, and News reporter, John Eby, Jr.

Richard Lehman and Mary Ann Wolgemuth were elected to represent the club on the county 4-H club council.

Adult leaders elected were John Eby, Earl Fisher, Mrs. Woodrow Good, Melvin Groff, Elmer Lapp and Roy Mentzer. Junior leaders will be elected at the next meeting.

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at 9:30 A.M. Sharp

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Not responsible for accidents on day of sale. Refreshments available. Terms: Cash

CHARLES J. HELLER
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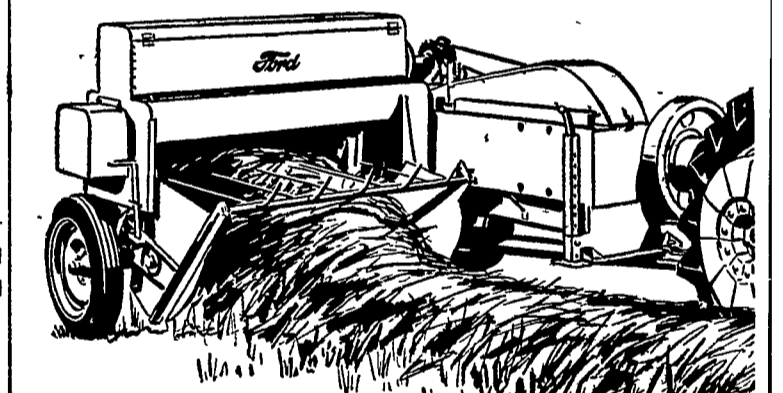
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