

Pa. Secretary Of Agriculture Declares War On Starlings

HARRISBURG — State Secretary of Agriculture L. H. Bull today declared war on starlings and called upon every able-bodied citizen to participate wherever possible in the fight to eliminate them.

"These pestiferous birds are carriers of two dangerous virus diseases that particularly affect people, all cattle and swine," he declared. "In addition to being the source of a disease which is known as histoplasmosis in people, they spread two viruses commonly called IBR and TGE among cattle and swine."

"Starlings are a menace to farm and city. Their presence drives away song birds and other feathered friends that are beneficial to agriculture and mankind," Secretary Bull said.

"The problem they create is particularly acute through the winter and early spring roosting season when local starlings are augmented by flocks of hundreds of thousands which migrate here over the winter from Canada.

"We cannot use poisoned baits in our fight against them," Secretary Bull cautioned. "There is a strict law against the use of poisons outside of buildings. The use of poisons for the extermination of pests inside buildings is permitted when applied by skilled exterminators," he added.

"The poison law was enacted to protect people, animals and other wildlife," the agricultural official explained, adding "we must also exercise extreme caution in the use of guns and other weapons as we battle this menace."

To become affected, people must come in contact with the excreta of the birds, according to Dr. Samuel Guss, noted veterinarian who has studied the habits of starlings because of the damage they cause among livestock.

Parents are advised to keep their children from playing where droppings of the birds are evident.

In a midwest city recently

where Boy Scouts and other citizens undertook a job of clearing out a park, four of the scouts became seriously ill after working in an area in which starlings were roosting. The illness was diagnosed as histoplasmosis and was definitely traced back to the birds.

"Since these birds roost on many of the taller buildings in most cities and towns," Dr. Guss remarked, "their danger to humans is evident. The strange thing is that while the starlings carry these diseases, they are not themselves affected by either of the viruses."

One of the viruses, Infected Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) creates an acute inflammation of the air passages in cattle. It strangles the animals and often is fatal. If the disease is caught in time, some cattle can be saved through proper vaccination.

The other virus, Transmissible Gastro-Enteritis (TGE) produces violent reaction in swine, particularly in baby pigs. There is no known treatment for TGE. Most cases result in fatalities.

Representatives of various organizations from all parts of the state, in seeking counsel on the problem with Secretary Bull and other officials, con-

Milk Production Still Goes Up In Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — February milk production per cow in Pennsylvania averaged 22.76 pounds a day. This compared with 22.58 pounds in January and 22.50 pounds for February 1963, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Daily production reached the 20-pound level in 1960 and since then has been rising steadily.

Pennsylvania milk production during February totaled 546 million pounds, 6 per cent below January and up only slightly from February 1963, but 9 per cent more than the February 1956-60 average.

There were 828,000 milk cows on Pennsylvania farms during February, 1,000 fewer than in the preceding month, 24,000 below February 1963 and 60,000 less than the February 1956-60 average, yet milk output was up 47 million pounds from the February 1956-60 average.

cluded the war on starlings must take place if people and animals are to be protected. With starlings gone, the greater influx of other birds will take care of the problems created by insects and other smaller pests.

Conservation Club To Meet

The Lancaster County 4-H Soil and Water Conservation Club will meet March 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Elmer Sensenig Food Market (basement meeting room), on Route 322, between Blue Ball and Ephrata.

Larry Corson, acting work unit conservationist for the Lancaster County Soil Conservation Service, will present a program on the work of the service and show a film on conservation. In addition, several member demonstrations are planned.

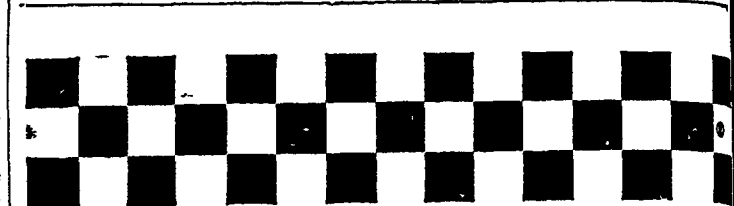
Please invite any of your friends to this meeting who may be interested in this sub-

ject. Any boy or girl of age may take part.

Members should come prepared to give a progress report of the activities in the record book completed.

When late, don't tail-gate. Being in a hurry is a dangerous reason for crowding the driver ahead. The Institute for Safer Living states that "tail-gate" accidents now rank among top causes of auto damage, death and injuries.

Certainly one of the world's biggest deeds was one of the deeds executed by the five Indian nations in 1736 for land along the Susquehanna conveying title to an area westward "to the setting of the sun."



Checkerboard News



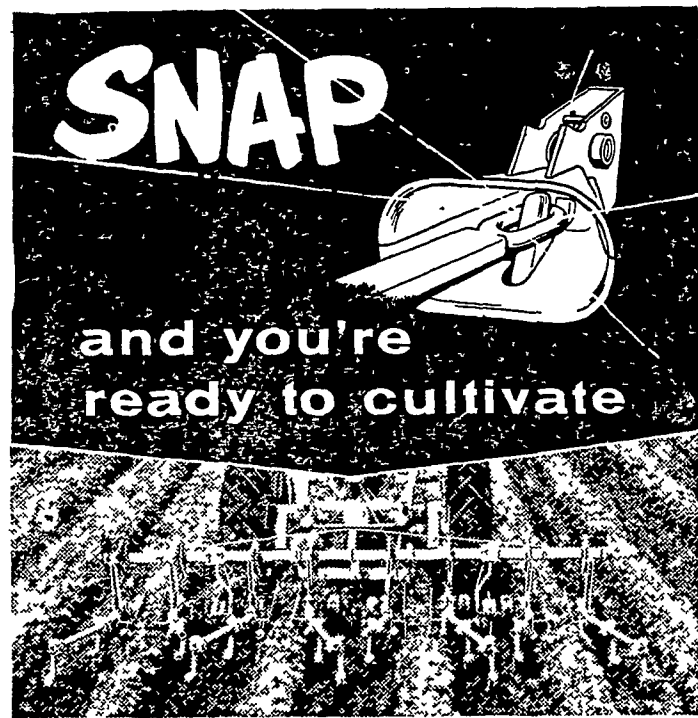
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