

Farm Ponds

The benefits from a farm pond are many, and the fall of the year is one of the best seasons to construct the pond. In many cases the pond is located in a

low, wet area which presents a problem in the spring and summer months with too much mud. Most contractors prefer to work dry soil, rather than mud, and a better job of construction may be obtained.

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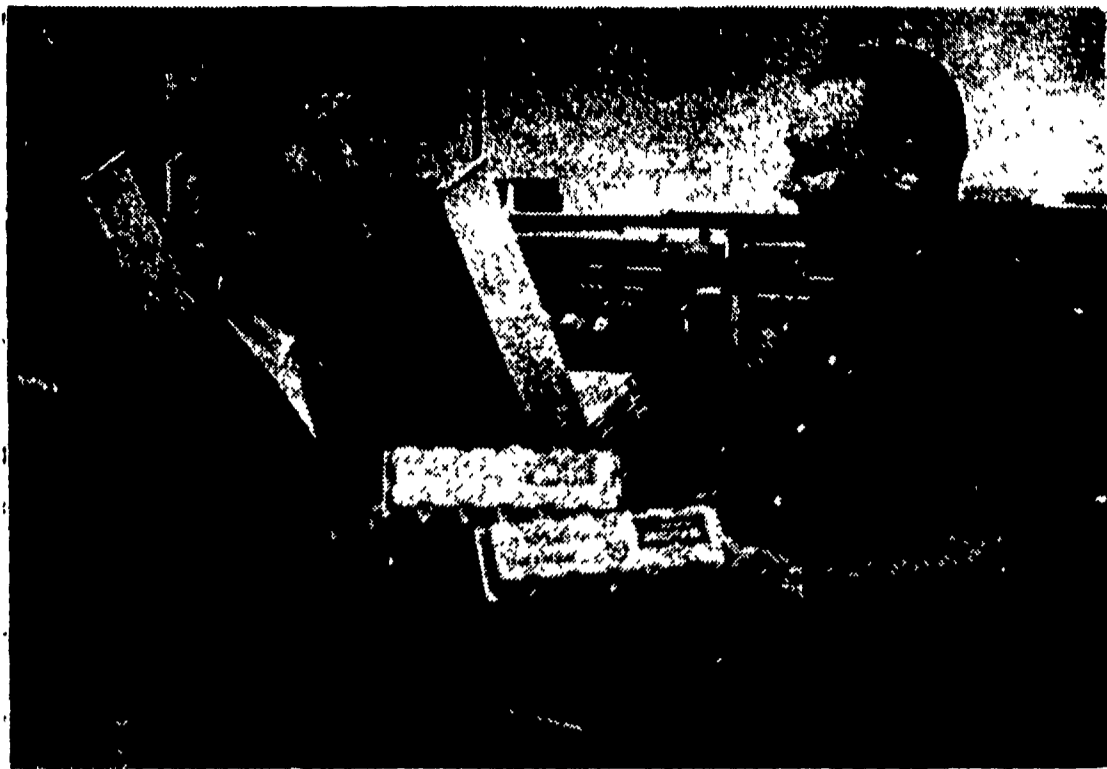
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AN ADVANCE LOOK at the operation of Spread Eagle Farms finds NEPPCO's Executive Director, Dick Ammon (left),

chatting with Elwood Williard, of Spread Eagle. See story Page 17.

Increase In USDA Donated Foods

To improve diets of school children, needy families, and needy persons in charitable institutions in this country, the U.S. Department of Agriculture donated almost 14 billion pounds of food during the first nine months of 1967-68 fiscal year. This is about 20 percent more than during the same period a year earlier, points out Catherine B. Love, extension consumer education specialist of The Pennsylvania State University.

Schools received more than 713 million pounds of donated food during this nine-month period, nearly 44 percent more than for the same period the year before. Steadily increasing enrollments in elementary and high schools and higher costs of serving school lunches are among reasons for increasing food donations.

Food donations to needy persons in family units accounted

for more than 537 million pounds, says Miss Love. In March, 35 million persons received food donations and another 24 million benefited from the USDA's Food Stamp Program.

To help feed needy adults and children in charitable institutions and children in nonprofit summer camps, USDA provided food for the nine-month period amounting to almost 107 million pounds.

One or more of USDA's food donation programs, carried out through state and local governments, operated in all 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture acquires food, suitably processed and packaged, and ships it to the states and territories for use in their school lunch, needy family, and other food-aid programs, Miss Love explains.

DOUBLE PREGNANCY CATTLE RESEARCH GOAL

Dairy scientists at The Pennsylvania State University are exploring the possibility of developing a second calf in dairy cows already carrying a calf one to three months of age, according to Dr. T. Y. Tanabe, reproductive physiologist with the department of dairy science.

Such work is termed superfetation, Dr. Tanabe says. Artificial insemination during pregnancy has been accomplished successfully without disrupting fetal development in 94 percent of the cows studied at Penn State's Dairy Breeding Research Center. However, fertilization of experimentally developed eggs, the crucial step in any such technique, has not been achieved.

To accomplish superfetation and successful birth of two healthy calves of different ages within a period of one to three months will require control of five major processes without disrupting the initial pregnancy.

First, a viable egg must be developed in the ovary on the side opposite the pregnant uterine horn. Then ovulation must be induced by hormone injection to rupture the ovarian follicle or egg sac and release the egg. Next, the experimentally induced egg must be fertilized. Then each fetus must be maintained through a normal gestation period. The final step is to induce separate and spaced births.

Dr. Tanabe and associates have found that pregnancy can be maintained by injecting sub-normally low levels of progesterone after surgically removing the corpus luteum — the gland that produces progesterone which in turn maintains fetal development. Such treatments have been 90 percent successful.

When pregnancy was tenuously maintained under conditions of low level progesterone substitution, large follicles developed which contained normal appearing eggs. This basic procedure produced a single follicle in 80 percent of the experimental animals. By hormone injection, such follicles were caused to rupture and release an egg in 70 percent of the cattle.

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