

Hunters Should Get To Know Landowners

There are many reasons why Pennsylvania is the No. 1 hunting state, but one of the most-frequently overlooked is the history of harmonious hunter-landowner relationships in the Keystone State.

Nearly eight million acres of land in Pennsylvania are open to public hunting, more than nearly any other state. About half of this is privately-owned, and there are additional hundreds of thousands of acres which are used for hunting, although not necessarily available to the general public.

Close cooperation between property owners, sportsmen and the Game Commission has pro-

vided more open hunting land and consequently increased the general success ratio of the average hunter. Efforts to maintain or improve this fine relationship will help insure the future of this wholesome activity which could be drastically reduced by careless acts of thoughtless hunters.

Wildlife, in proper numbers, can be beneficial to landowners, but on oversupply of game animals and birds can be harmful to farm crops. The harvesting of surplus game not only supplies recreation and sport for hunters but also benefits farmers.

Since farmers stand to gain through hunting (and many hunt themselves), they general-

ly welcome sportsmen. While many sportsmen are hunters, not all hunters are sportsmen, and it is the irresponsible hunter who brings nothing but trouble and grief to landowners and other outdoorsmen.

A sportsman knows the landowner, where his property lines are located, and always asks for and receives advance permission before hunting. He knows that a hunting license does not entitle anyone to trespass on private property.

A sportsman never blocks a driveway or lane with a vehicle, shoots near buildings, livestock or persons, tramps down farm crops, leaves gates open, breaks down fences, litters, etc. He shows respect for person and property and shares his game with the landowner, and is usually invited to return to hunt again.

The irresponsible hunter, on the other hand, just barges onto a stranger's land and may even ignore common courtesies usually extended to a passerby or the highway.

It is the conduct of the thoughtless hunter that leads to the posting of "No Trespassing" signs and reluctance on the part of the property owner to extend the privilege to hunt to reputable sportsmen.

And contact with the landowner should be maintained throughout the year, not just during hunting seasons. If the hunter doesn't know the landowner now he should become acquainted with him at the earliest opportunity.

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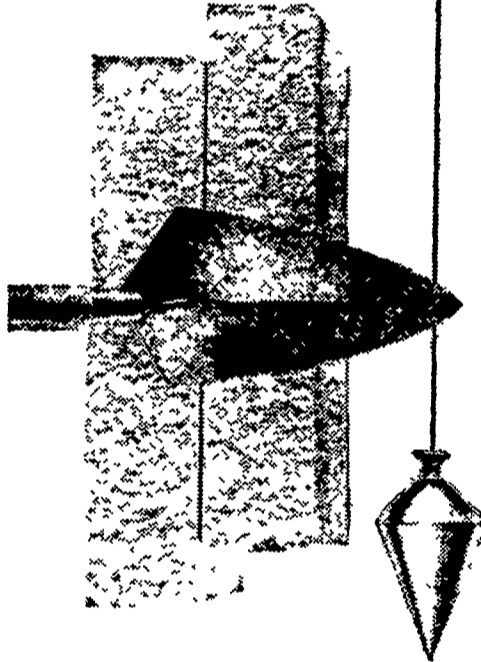
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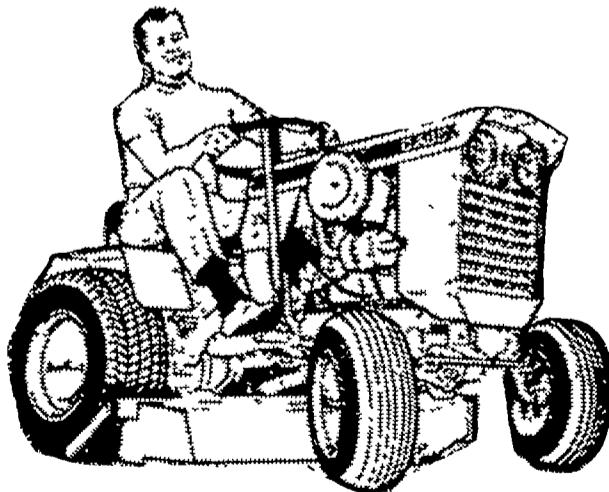
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