

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

One of the fastest-growing, yet little-known, vacation ideas in Pennsylvania today is the farm vacation.

Quite possibly because of the creation of a gigantic Eastern megalopolis from Washington, D. C., to Boston, Massachusetts, the idea of spending two weeks breathing clean air on Pennsylvania farms has caught on.

From a scattering of a few farms located in Bradford, Sullivan and Lancaster Counties offering city families rural accommodations back in 1961 when the idea really began, the roster of farm families participating has now grown to more than 100.

Soil Moisture

Soil moisture seems to be a premium item again this year. All property owners are reminded of the value of ground mulches around garden plants and shrubbery, two to three inches of peat moss, tan-bark, peanut hulls, or wood chips will go far toward controlling weeds and holding more soil moisture. These mulches may be applied at any time of the growing season but will do more good if spread in the spring. The plant roots need a uniform supply of moisture both during the heat of the summer and the extreme cold of winter. Also, trees and shrubs that have been planted this spring should get a good soaking with water every 10 days to two weeks, this is very important to provide sufficient moisture to the reduced root area. Most of the summer rains are not sufficient to soak down into the root zone.

Actually, the 1969 edition of the Pennsylvania Farm Vacation Directory published by the Department of Agriculture lists 101 farm families in no less than 37 counties where such facilities are available, most of them on a year-round basis.

Three major types of farm vacations exist under the designation Working Farm, Guest House or Commercial Resort. Some cater to adults without children, others serve entire families, and still others offer facilities only for children.

Many farm tourist spots have rooms available in the farm house while larger establishments furnish guest lodgings in separate cabins or cottages. Camping and trailer areas are sometimes available as a special feature.

Farm vacations offer unique lodging for tourists in addition to a peek into a special corner of American culture and heritage. A tantalizing home style meal with the farm family is a special occasion to many city dwellers.

Only the rural areas can offer the challenge of man against nature apparent in the hunter's and fisherman's endeavors. Both young and old alike may enjoy a relaxing game of golf while on a farm vacation.

In addition, swimming facilities enable visitors to soak up the sun and absorb the rustic farm atmosphere at the same time. Added attractions might also include a relaxing afternoon ride on a horse or pony, or, in season, a speeding trip down a nearby ski slope.

Other farm vacation specialties could also include visits to nearby historic sites, scenic points of interest, theaters and

special annual events in the surrounding locality.

But the farm vacation idea is much more than an opportunity to soothe frayed city nerves through serene country living. To the farmer himself, the growing need for rural recreational facilities offers a chance to add to agricultural incomes. Because of this, two State de-

partments currently are engaged in both popularizing the idea and making it possible for more farmers and farm families to participate. For its part, the Bureau of Travel Development, Department of Commerce, is distributing the Farm Vacation Directory to all who request it. And the Bureau of Marketing, State Department of Agricul-

ture, will make available to all interested farmers information on how to obtain additional financing from the Federal Economic Development Administration, the Farmers Home Administration or the Small Business Administration to help him build tourist and/or recreational facilities to enter the farm vacation business itself.

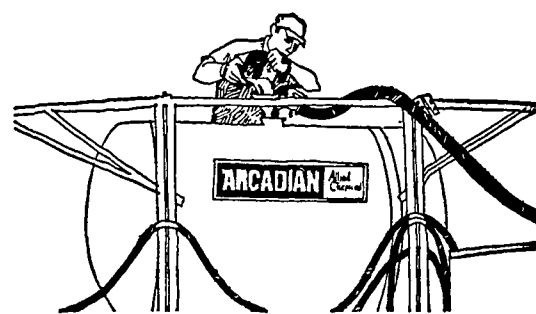
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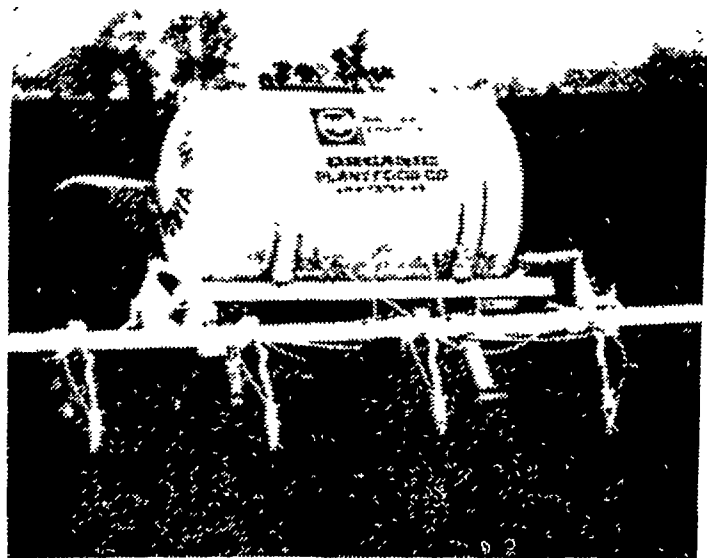
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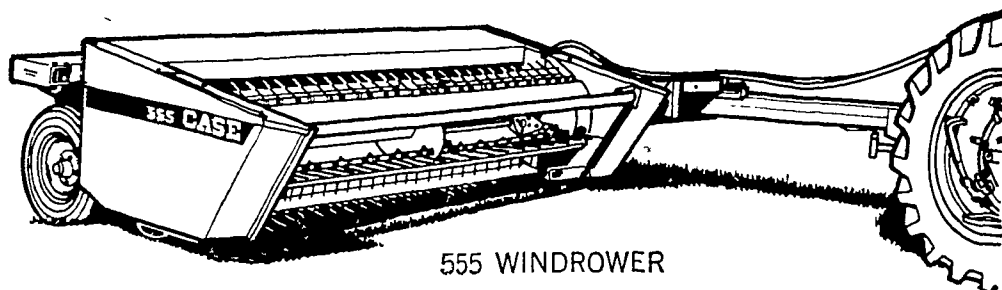
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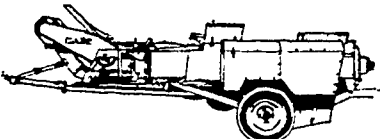
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