

## Upward Spiral Halted In Size Of Deer Herd

The upward spiral in the size of Pennsylvania's deer herd appears to have been halted this year, according to Game Commission field reports and observations.

High annual harvests of whitetails, particularly antlerless deer, during the past few years appear to have at least stabilized the dangerously large herd, and in a number of areas have brought about a desired reduction in big game populations.

A deer under every tree might be ideal from a hunter's standpoint, but demands for land for agriculture, forestry, homes, highways, schools, etc. require a Game Commission policy which produces a desirable balance between conflicting interests. When this balance is reached and maintained, all of society benefits.

Although the state experienced another relatively mild winter this year, the natural mortality rate was the second highest in the past eight years and almost four times the previous winter's loss. Starvation was

most prevalent in the northern part of the state.

The 1969 winter loss was not large enough to cause undue concern, but it was an indication that the herd was larger than the comfortable carrying capacity of the range.

The spring deer population in 1969 is more nearly normal for this time of the year than in the past few springs. For some time the population of whitetails immediately prior to the birth of fawns has been uncomfortably high.

During the past few years the annual production of fawns has been larger than the annual total mortality, leading to a whitetail herd which was steadily growing larger.

Unusually large antlerless harvests in the last two years mean that fewer fawns are likely to be produced this year than in 1968. Fewer whitetails will mean less forest damage, fewer deer killed on the state's highways, lower damage to farm crops, etc.

A smaller herd will also mean more food available for each deer, and this in turn produces heavier whitetails with better antler development — more trophies for sportsmen.

In some heavily-overbrowsed sections of the state the reproductive rate for whitetails has

## Pruning

We often get the question about the best time of the year to prune flowering trees and shrubs. This depends upon the time of the year in which they bloom. Dogwood, forsythia, spirea, rhododendron, deutzia, lilac and most other spring flowering shrubs—these plants should be pruned immediately after flowering; the flower buds for next year will begin forming in the new growth by the middle of the summer and should not be removed after that time. Some of these plants such as lilac, mockorange, and rhododendron produce seedheads after flowering; much of the plant's strength goes into this seedhead and it is best to remove them after the flowers fade.

dropped over 50 percent, due to malnutrition. Where the deer population has also dropped in these sections, it will not be necessary to harvest nearly as many antlerless deer as in the past.

The wisdom in extending the antlerless deer season by one day this past December is now becoming abundantly clear. Had there been no extension, the winter mortality undoubtedly would have been higher and the overall condition of the range would have been worse than it is now.

And whitetails which would have succumbed during the winter would not have been available to hunters this fall.

All in all, the state's deer situation seems to be in better shape now than at any time in the last several years. There are still plenty of trophies for hunters but not so many that other interests are suffering unbearable loss.

## Sales Manager Named Foreign Consuls Sent Ag Buyer's Guide

Willard A. Krueger, Vice-President of Marketing for American Breeders Service, Inc., announces the appointment of Gary A. Willier as District Sales Manager for ABS, a subsidiary of W. R. Grace & Co. Willier will serve Southeastern Pennsylvania, Eastern Maryland, and the states of Delaware and New Jersey for the Wisconsin-Based International Cattle Breeding firm. He'll be in charge of developing this territory through ABS Representatives located in the territory, establishing new representatives, and conducting A.I. Management Training Schools that serve to train cattlemen in herd owner A.I. programs.

Prior to his ABS employment, he served as a summer assistant in the Pennsylvania State Cooperative Extension Service in 1966 and in 1967.

Willier is a 1967 graduate of Pennsylvania State University and received his M.S. Degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1968. He was a member of Alpha Zeta, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Gamma Sigma Delta fraternities. He received the Borden Award and several scholarships while completing his undergraduate work. He was a recipient of the National Science Foundation Traineeship and was named M. Agriculture at Pennsylvania State University in 1967.

He was born and reared in Pitman, Pennsylvania. He has a general farm background and has had experience with Holstein cattle.

Mr. Willier is married to the former Janet Lucas. They have one daughter, Jennifer Lynn

Foreign consuls in Pennsylvania are being sent the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's buyer's guide for poultry and eggs.

State Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull said the guide is being sent to consuls in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia because of the consumer interest shown in Pennsylvania poultry products at food fairs held in Europe last year.

The guide, which lists names and addresses of the egg producers, egg handlers, poultry products and poultry processors, is also being distributed to chain stores, food brokers and food purchasing agents.

"The buyer's guide is another good way of making people aware of the high grade poultry products available in Pennsylvania," Secretary Bull said.

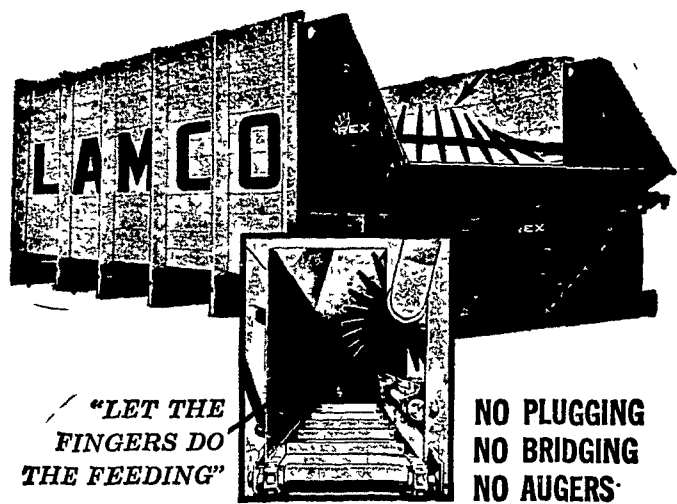
The guide informs prospective purchasers that poultry products inspected by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are shown to be wholesome, free from adulteration, truthfully labeled and processed under sanitary conditions.

The guide also explains that eggs certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture meet quality and weight standards, "enabling the consumer to buy with confidence and receive a product of designated quality."

The Williers reside at 68 Glen Oaks Drive, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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