

Study Habit Suggestions

The entire family needs to cooperate to help students develop good study habits, says James Van Horn, Extension family life specialist at Penn-

sylvania State University. All students need a quiet time and place—with no interruptions or confusion.

Provide study areas that are

well lighted and quiet. And remember that the time for study is just as important as the place. A child should be rested and relaxed after a school day. Allow him time for active play before concentrating on homework.

Van Horn suggests that you help him avoid rushing to finish homework before a deadline such as dinner or bedtime. Try to schedule study time so it doesn't conflict with a favorite activity or necessary function. If possible, plan the study hour for the same time every evening. He'll become accustomed to a regular homework time and be more ready to concentrate.

If you have preschoolers in the home, too, arrange a period of quiet play for them during the older child's study period. Coloring or finger painting, reading or listening to a story are good quiet activities. This quiet play gives youngsters a chance to "play" at studying and helps them get in the habit of a study period.

When children get older and homework assignments take longer, encourage a short study break. A glass of milk, fruit juice, cookies or a piece of fruit can help build up enthusiasm for returning to studying.

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Popcorn — New Crop?

Are Pennsylvania farmers overlooking the opportunity of producing another cash crop? A survey of snack food processors by marketing specialists of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture indicates this is the case, according to Secretary Jim McHale.

These processors are using between one and 1.5 million pounds of popcorn annually to

satisfy the demand for this popular snack food. Less than five percent of this is being grown by Pennsylvania farmers. Increasing freight costs and the convenience of procuring a larger part of their needs locally have increased the interest of distributors and processors in contracting for larger quantities

of Pennsylvania grown popcorn.

Farmers who are growing corn as a cash crop would do well to look into the possibility of growing popcorn, Secretary McHale said. The only change they would have to make on their equipment would be the installation of special plates in the planter. Cultural practices are the same for both field and popcorn.

Growers in south central Pennsylvania told a Department representative they are well pleased with the returns they have been getting from this popcorn. They stated net profits are better than field corn since there is less labor and risk involved. The crop is sold directly from the field to the wholesale buyer. There is no storage involved and no deductions for moisture.

The Bureau of Rural Affairs and Marketing Services is developing a program to assist popcorn distributors in locating Pennsylvania farmers who are interested in growing this crop. Additional information can be obtained by writing the Division of Marketing Services, Bureau of Rural Affairs and Marketing Services, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, 20301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17120.

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