

Advisors Call Farmers Prime Environmentalists

The Public Advisory Committee on Soil and Water Conservation, concluding its three-day annual meeting recently, urged the USDA to redouble efforts to inform the public of agricultural contributions to environmental improvement.

The committee of 18 citizens from across the nation, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, met to evaluate and make recommendations for program needs and development in resource conservation so that the USDA's activities "can make the most meaningful contribution to

the welfare of the United States and the quality of the environment."

Committee recommendations this year included:

—That USDA expand its efforts to inform the public of the Department's contributions to

reducing agricultural related pollution and to improving the environment through its programs of research, education, technical assistance, credit, and cost-sharing;

—That USDA issue a land use policy memorandum setting forth the Department's position and intended activities; and

— That the Secretary of Agriculture promptly assign responsibilities under the Rural Development Act of 1972 for inventorying and monitoring natural resources, based on the urgent need for this information at all levels of government.

Meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz and USDA agency officials in

Washington, the Committee examined specific areas it felt needed improvement. These included: environmental and conservation information and education, sediment control and animal waste disposal, watershed activity and resource conservation and development projects; and public access in water resource projects.

The Committee stressed the importance of USDA's continuing emphasis on an "environmental impact" approach in planning its program requirements and assistance, and in its cooperative efforts with other groups. It also noted that the farmer is, and has traditionally been, a major force for conservation.

Consumers Want to Know

by MARGARET SPADER
Director of Consumer Affairs
National Association of Manufacturers

The prices asked for the same age, make and model automobile often vary from one dealer to another. Considering the variety of terms and extras today, how can a consumer determine which is the best buy?

A Federal law requires that a manufacturer's price label appear on the window of all new cars. It must list the manufacturer's suggested retail price of the car and of each item of optional equipment installed at the factory. The Federal Excise Tax is included in the suggested retail or "list" price. A prospective buyer should find out the base price of the car he wants. Have the dealer total all costs, including state and local sales tax. From this total, subtract

the cash difference or amount the dealer will allow if you have a car to trade in. The prudent consumer will get this figure from several dealers and compare costs before purchase.

What's the best way to find a reputable automobile dealer?

Manufacturers of automobiles will supply lists of their franchised dealers in your community on request. These dealers are authorized by a manufacturer to sell and service one or more of his particular line of cars. It's a good idea to look over the service and parts department. You may also call the Better Business Bureau to get information on automobile dealers. They can advise you about complaints and settlements of a variety of businesses in your community.

What exactly is a double knit?

The double knit fabrics consist of two interlocked layers (a face and a back) which cannot be separated. Single knits (commonly called Jersey) consist of only one layer. Double knits are heavier and provide stretch both up and down, with good recovery.

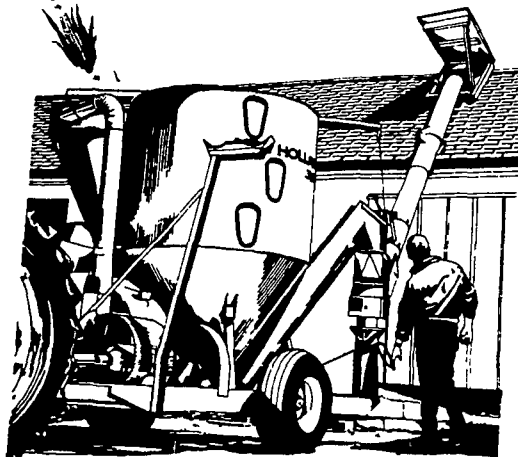
I'd like to buy a room air conditioner but I don't know what to look for. Please give me some suggestions.

Appliance experts advise that you assemble facts such as the size of the room to be cooled—the height, length and width, the direction the room faces, the type of window—such as casement, double-hung, etc., and the electrical voltage in your home. This information will help the salesman determine the cooling capacity you need and the best unit to do the job. Then you should ask about noise level, temperature controls, and filter. You should also find out how to clean and replace the air deflection features. Also consult use-and-care instructions.

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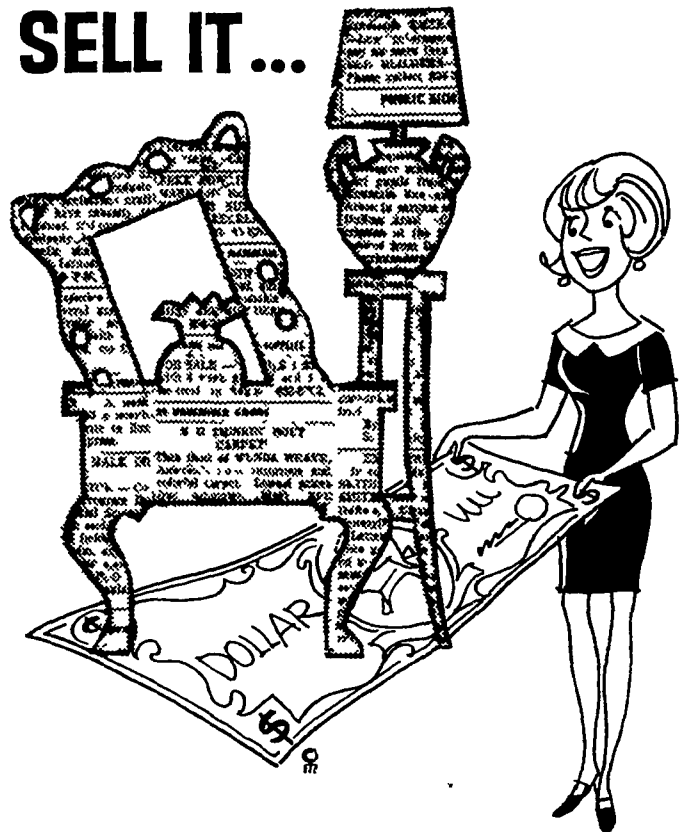
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