

From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



The article for this week was prepared by Stephen Leiser, vocational teacher at Solanco High School.

How to Buy a Christmas Tree

What to consider in

buying a Christmas tree; Do the needles fall off your Christmas tree? Does your Christmas tree dry out?

Here are a few ideas in



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selecting and caring for a Christmas Tree this year:

Selecting a Tree

1. Determine where in your home you will display your tree. With this in mind, you will be able to tell what height you will need and whether all four sides must be suitable for display.

2. You should select a tree that is the right height for the space you have chosen for it. Cutting large portions off either end will alter the natural taper of the tree.

3. Freshness is an important key when selecting your tree. The needles should be resilient, but not brittle. Run your finger down a branch - the needles should adhere to each twig.

4. Shake or bounce the tree on the ground lightly to see that the

needles are firmly attached. If only a few drop off, the tree is fresh and with proper care should retain its freshness indoors throughout the holiday season.

5. The limbs should be strong enough to hold ornaments and strings of electric lights and the tree should have a strong fragrance and good green color for the species.

6. Check the tree for freshness, cleanness, health, and trimming and be sure it displays the best qualities for the particular species

Christmas Tree Care

1. If you buy your tree several days before it will be set up and decorated, store it outside. Cut the butt of the tree at a diagonal about one inch above the original cut - this opens the pores and aids in the absorption of water. Place the butt end in a container of water.

2. When you bring it into the house, saw the butt again, squaring off the diagonal. This facilitates placing the tree in a stand as well as aiding absorption.

3. Keep the butt end of the tree

in a container of water the entire time it is in the house. Refill the container daily as the tree requires a lot of water. Sprinkling water on the branches and needles before you decorate the tree will help retain freshness.

4. Be sure that the base of the tree is well-supported and the tree is placed away from fireplaces, radiators, electric heaters, televisions or any other source of heat.

5. Open flames, such as lighted candles, should never be used on or near the tree. In addition, never leave your home with the Christmas tree lights still on

6. The longer the tree is indoors, the more combustible it will become. Check electric light cords for fraying and worn spots that could easily lead to fires. Also do not overload the electric circuits and avoid placing electric toys directly under the tree. Be sure to avoid the use of combustible decorations.

Following these care and precaution measures should insure an attractive tree that stays fresh indoors for more than a week and a holiday season free from Christmas tree mishaps. Merry Christmas!!

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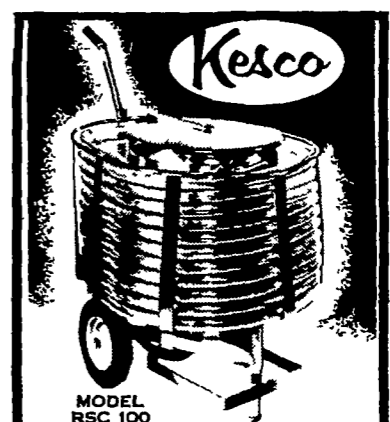
Farmers National Bank of Quarryville has donated \$100 to the 1972 Nationwide 4-H Bank Campaign, the money to go to both the National and Pennsylvania 4-H foundations

"We're more than pleased, once again this year, to indicate our support for the good work of the National 4-H Foundation," said Robert K. Bruce, the bank's vice president and cashier.

"Our directors and I believe that no better organization exists in America for leadership training and character building."

The bank's check was presented to J. Gray Mattern, Jr., Pennsylvania 4-H Bank Chairman, and will be forwarded to the National 4-H Foundation for its promotion of educational opportunities for young people.

4-H membership has risen to an all-time high of 200,000. Last year, the foundation conducted a citizenship-leadership program attended by 160 youth from Pennsylvania.



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