

# Waterfowl Populations Rise at Middle Creek

Populations of some waterfowl species have just about doubled during the past year on the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.

Charles Strouphar, resident manager of the Middle Creek Area, says that the supply of Canada geese reached 4,000 this fall, just about twice as many as in the fall of 1971.

About 3,000 of the honkers remained at Middle Creek for two months or longer this fall, and the population of Canada geese at Middle Creek is about 2,000 now.

Duck populations at Middle Creek ran between 3,500 and 4,000 for a period of two months this fall, according to Strouphar. This is about 1,000 more ducks than were at Middle Creek last year. The current supply of ducks at Middle Creek numbers about 2,500.

Most of the ducks at Middle Creek are mallards. About 15 or 20 percent of the ducks are blacks, while some coots, shovelers, ringneck ducks and wood ducks also are being ob-

served.

Strouphar says there is a high population of birds of prey at Middle Creek. Included are dark phase rough legged hawks and an immature bald eagle. A thick sod has been created across much of the Middle Creek Wildlife Area, which has permitted a big increase in field mouse populations. This has attracted the unusually large number of birds of prey. There are also some whistling swans on the area.

Upwards of 500 persons are visiting the area on Sundays to observe the birds.

The buildup of waterfowl on the area is a result of the excellent habitat which has been created by the Game Commission and the closing of the controlled shooting area to hunting this fall. Closure of the area to hunting has also permitted expansion of other wildlife populations.

The controlled shooting area will be opened to hunting during the late small game and archery deer season from December 26 through January 13.

# USDA Proposes Hot Dog Changes

Proposed new ingredient standards for frankfurter, bologna and other cooked sausage products have been suggested by Richard Lyng, Assistant USDA Secretary.

Lyng, the USDA official responsible for the nation's meat inspection and product labeling, told the National Meat and Poultry Advisory Committee meeting in Washington, D.C.:

"It is time to consider revising both ingredients and labeling of frankfurters and other cooked sausage products. Consumers should understand what they are

buying without having to read the fine print on packages. In particular, it's time to consider taking 'meat by-products' out of frankfurters.

"By-products are both nutritious and wholesome," Lyng pointed out. "But, some housewives just don't like the idea of buying a product containing these items. Because of this, it is time to consider revising our standards. There may be some opposition from industry and cost-conscious consumer groups to what we will propose."

Current federal standards for frankfurters have come under

criticism recently—particularly in the state of Michigan. There, the state has gone to court to try to keep out federally inspected sausage.

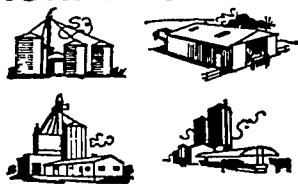
"We will propose new federal regulations for frankfurters, embodying proposed new ingredient and labeling standards," Lyng told the Advisory Committee members. "Consumer groups, the general public, and industry will have 60 days to comment on the proposals. This will get the issue out in the open and give us a real chance to find out what the public thinks."

The proposed change in ingredient standards will be included in a USDA notice of proposed rule making, to be issued in connection with a case involving the creation, by USDA, of categories of sausage products that can be easily distinguished by the public.

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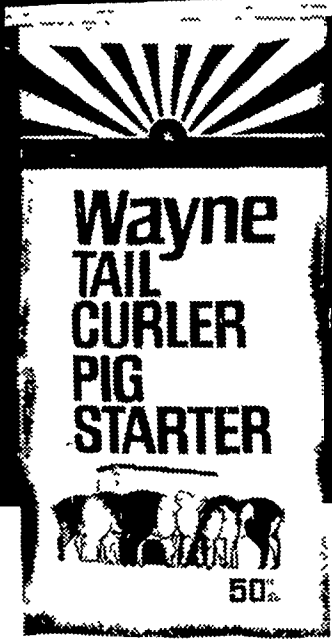
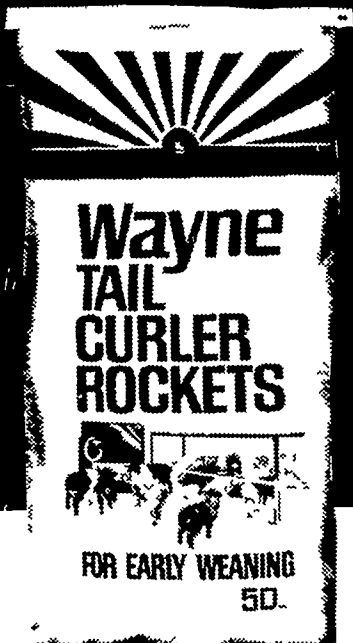


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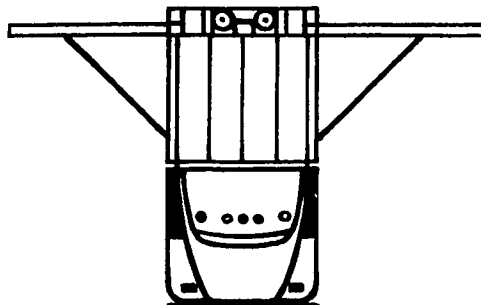
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