

Ephrata Junior Ag Club Cuts Browse In Tioga County

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Ten members of the Ephrata Junior High Agriculture Club earned a trip to Tioga County to cut browse for deer. This is part of a wildlife management experience planned as an annual club activity.

The boys selected to represent the club were Scott Bartsch,

Jesse Brubaker, Gerald Good, Daniel Hollinger, Clair Martin, Vernon Martin, Jay Oberholtzer, David Reiff, Richard Strauss and John Zimmerman.

The group left Ephrata on Friday, January 19, and traveled in a truck camper to the town of Morris. They stayed in a cabin and the trailer. They took all their own tools, equipment and food along, and did their own



Tioga County Gamelands Manager David Brown, left, talked about wildlife management to the Ephrata Junior Ag Club on their recent annual browse cutting trip. Boys representing the club were, left

to right, John Zimmerman, Jesse Brubaker, Gerald Goode, Richard Strauss, David Reiff, Scott Bartsch, Vernon Martin, Clair Martin, Daniel Hollinger and Jay Oberholtzer.

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cooking according to planned committee assignments.

Prior cooking and dishwashing experience was an asset for some of the boys. In addition to the routine chores, their busy schedule was filled with a variety of experiences.

The highlight was continuing their browse cutting project in Game Lands No. 37 near Hills Creek State Park. The boys cut about two acres of browse starting at 7:00 a.m. and quitting at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. They took time out for lunch and a game lands management field trip

conducted by Tioga County Game Lands Manager David Brown

Friday evening was spent getting settled and visiting the Raymond Butler farm at RD1 Morris. Mr. Butler was named outstanding Pennsylvania Young Farmer in 1969 and has two sons who are active FFA members at Liberty High School.

Late Saturday afternoon was spent visiting the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum and Model Logging Camp near Coudersport. The group also visited Denton Hill Ski Slope State Park and observed some skiing and snow making. Saturday evening they made a short stop at Harrison State Park to view the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon by moonlight. They also visited and toured a gas well drilling operation between Morris and Wellsboro.

Sunday the group visited an active beaver dam, went to church, and stopped at Little

Pine State Park near Waterville. The dam at Little Pine featured ice fishing and ice skating on 10' thick ice on a beautiful afternoon. The club returned to Ephrata by 5:00 p.m. Sunday, January 21. Weather conditions were very good. A few snow flurries on Saturday and plenty of sunshine on Sunday.

During the tour with Mr. Brown he reported that cutting trees at the proper time will provide deer with about 1500 pounds of new twig growth for browse feeding of deer.

Late last winter after the deep snows arrived, the deer fed heavily on the browse that the group had cut last year. Wildlife feed trees such as apple, witch hazel, June berry, and grape vines were not cut.

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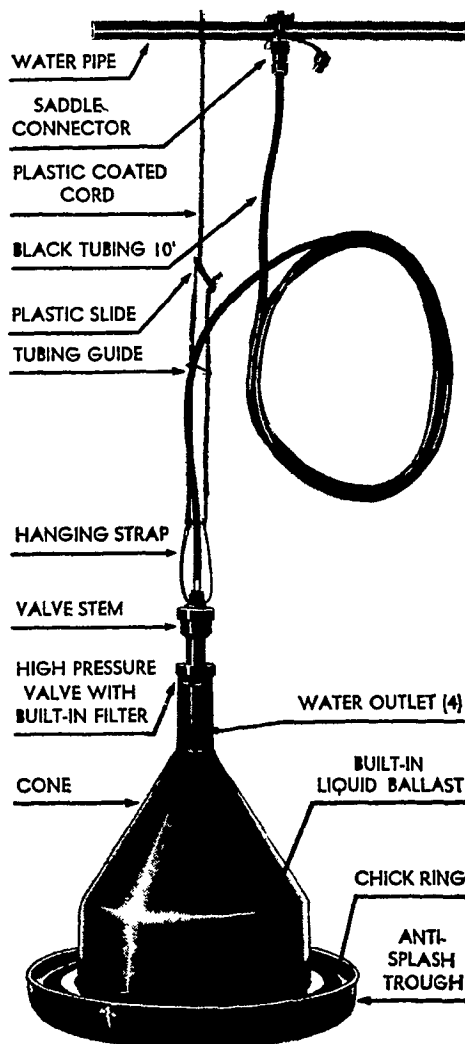
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