

From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



The article this week was submitted by Philip Oglie, teacher of agriculture at Garden Spot High School.

Discover Wildlife—It's Too Good To Miss

When the term wildlife is mentioned, some people immediately think of deer, bear or water birds which can be hunted during the "open seasons"; to others it brings to mind songbirds, rare plants of the woods, the virgin forests or lovely flowers that can be enjoyed only as long as they are left in their native habitat, while to a third group it means the fish of our streams, lakes and seas. While "Wildlife" can mean all these things, the term conservation usually refers only to nondomesticated animals, both game and nongame species.

Wildlife is worth perpetuating for more than just its monetary value. We cannot measure its most important values in dollars and cents.

Sportsmen in the United States spend more than a billion dollars a year for licenses, equipment, transportation and board, just to hunt and fish. Perhaps that investment does not yield an adequate financial return, but it has afforded rich satisfaction to the sportsmen. The enjoyment of things around us is one of the important attributes of a civilized society. This includes not only those recreational activities of hunting and fishing, but also appreciation of the meadow lark's song in the morning, the knocking of the woodpecker as he digs for his meal in the dead branch of a tree, the fragrance of growing things, the taste of ripened berries, the very feeling of the air and grass and water. All these give us moments of relaxation and enjoyment from



Philip Oglie

what otherwise could well be a drab world.

It is commonly believed that land which becomes unsuitable for farming is good enough for wildlife, but we must remember that wildlife requires the right kinds of food and shelter, just as any domestic animal does. It cannot exist without either of these necessities.

One of the most serious problems facing both game and non-game wildlife is the continual destruction of wildlife habitat by urban sprawl. All new highways and most new shopping centers, homes and businesses destroy wildlife habitat. Annually nearly 43,000 acres of wildlife habitat is destroyed in Pennsylvania. In most cases, man judges his economic growth and development as more important and of more value to him than retaining open lands and wildlife habitat.

To those who have seriously considered the problems of environmental improvement and

conservation, the long range answer is education. Only through the preparation of future citizens who are aware of the fragile relationship between man and the resources which support

all life systems, can the future of man and his environment be assured.

March 18 to 25 is National Wildlife Week. Discover Wildlife—It's Too Good To Miss.

Boots and Saddles Club Plans Years Activities

The March meeting of the Boots and Saddles Horse and Pony 4-H Club was called to order by president Robin Fellenbaum. Secretary Diane Reese called the roll with 33 members present and 12 parents attending.

Members received their project books. The Club's annual open all-western Horse Show was discussed. It is to be held at 9:30

a.m. April 14 at the Lancaster County Riding and Tennis Club.

A clinic for members will be held in May and the first gymkhana in June. Members suggested places they wished to visit, activities, and a community service project to be held this year.

The meeting was adjourned and a few members made posters to advertise the Horse Show. For information call 397-9318, 653-5636, or 569-3068.

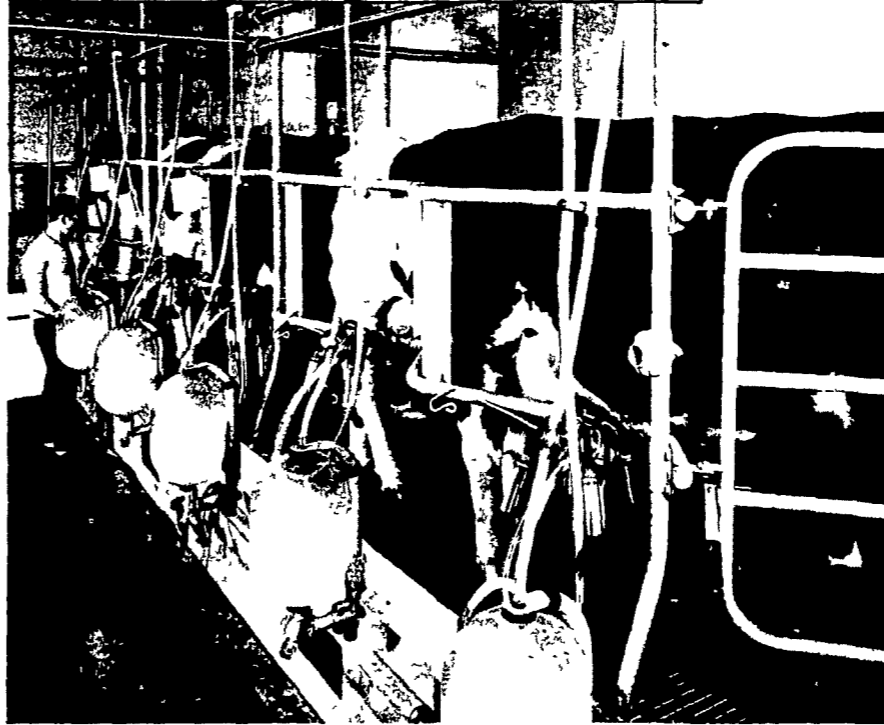
Club Reporter,
Daniel Fellenbaum

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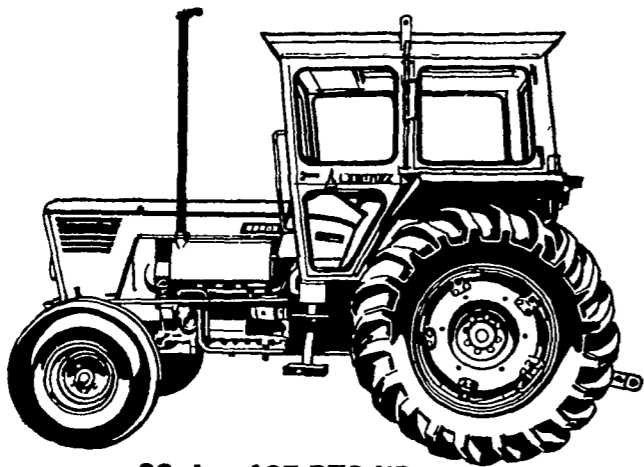
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