

Do's and Dont's on Dove Hunting

Now that the 1973 hunting season on mourning doves is at hand, assistant county agent N. Alan Bair suggests the following list of do's and don'ts.

Do's on Hunting

Hunt safely! Nothing can mar a hunting trip like a hunting accident. Get permission from the landowner before hunting. Introduce yourself. Get to know the landowner. He will appreciate knowing who is doing all the shooting. Thank the landowner before leaving and offer to share your bag with him.

Use a retrieving dog if possible. Doves are difficult to find in practically all kinds of cover. A good dog will help you fill your

bag more quickly and save birds for the next day or another hunter.

Mark each downed bird, even if you have a dog. The dog may not always see a bird fall. Help the dog out. You are a team, you know!

Make a reasonable attempt to retrieve lost birds. Search for lost birds for at least a half hour before giving up in order to be "reasonable."

Take some water along for the dog. He can get awfully hot on a bright September afternoon.

Try to enjoy the experience even if you don't kill any birds. It is possible and it's the mark of a true sportsman.

Dont's on Hunting

Don't shoot toward buildings even though you are shooting high. Nothing can be more annoying and unnerving than hearing shot clatter against a window or metal barn roof as it falls.

Don't leave a pile of plastic shotshell cases when you leave. Some hunters need a lot of ammo to get their limit. Leaving all the empty shotshells behind amounts to littering.

Don't completely dress your birds in the field leaving feathers, entrails and heads behind. The law requires that one fully feathered wing remain attached while the birds are being transported.

Don't try for doubles or triples if you don't have a dog. Invariably you will lose one or more of the birds, especially if they fall in heavy cover. Mark singles down, retrieve them, then worry about your next bird.

Don't even shoot at birds that you know will fall in crop fields where hunters are not permitted, and refrain from shooting at birds that will drop in water unless you are ready for a swim.

Don't shoot at birds sitting on wires or in trees. This really does very little or nothing to improve your wing shooting.

Don't forget that the hunter is not very popular in many circles today. Let's try to behave like the gentlemen that most of us are.

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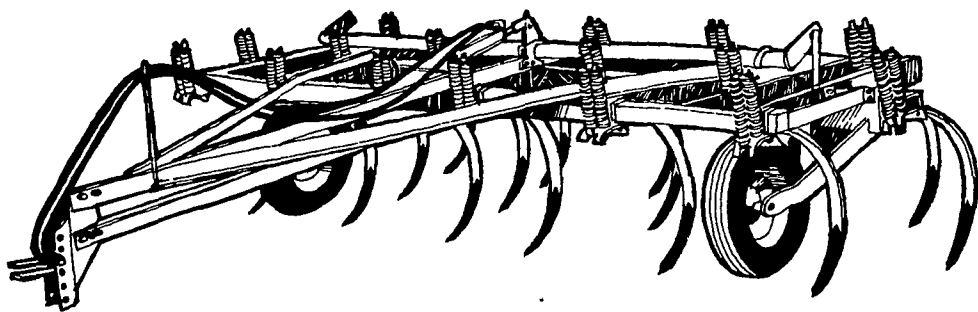
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Some Lancaster countians showed they will help a friend in need over the past few days.

David Shank, Conestoga RD1, was hanging tobacco in a shed last Saturday when he fell about 20 feet.

According to Jay Garber, a neighbor, Shank had a clear fall to the floor.

Shank was taken by ambulance to Lancaster General Hospital and treated for back injuries and several cracked ribs, according to reports, and will be unable to do much harvesting for quite some time.

Monday, just after the noonday meal, about 40 neighbors descended on the Shank land, midway between New Danville and Conestoga, and harvested, loaded, and hung about five and a half acres of tobacco.

Some of those helping were farmers themselves. Others were church friends who took part of the day off business and came to harvest.

About one and a half acres remained to be harvested. Neighbors planned to complete the harvest today.



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