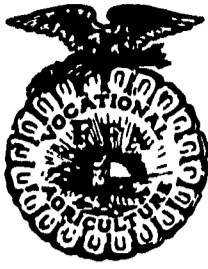


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



Ronald J. Althoff

Pond Problems
The article this week was prepared by Ronald J. Althoff, teacher of agriculture at Solanco High School.

Have you looked at your farm pond lately? Are you starting to encounter problems that you never expected?

Management of a pond after it is built is just as important as the con-

struction planning. Aquatic plants present problems for most pond owners. Like weeds in a garden, undesirable aquatic plants must be dealt with in a continuous program.

Some of the problems can often be alleviated by deepening the edges of a pond to three feet with 3:1 side slopes. Cattail and bulrush along pond edges can be pulled by hand when

it first appears. Vegetation on pond banks should be mowed where practical. Keeping banks free of dense growth will also help control snakes.

Fertilizing to keep the water cloudy with plankton may help prevent plant growth. The plankton will also make excellent food for any fish in the pond.

Chemicals are available for weed control in ponds, but anyone using such chemicals in a body of water must have a permit and follow the procedures established by Pennsylvania Fish Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Muskrat Damage

The best insurance against muskrat damage is a properly designed pond. There is little danger of leaks in dams with adequate top widths because muskrats

usually will not burrow completely through. The top of the dam should be at least six feet wide.

Most likely though, even the best designed pond will have muskrats that eventually become a nuisance to the owner. Ripping the shoreline with large gravel or small stones may offer some protection. These materials should be placed 3 to 4 inches thick and should extend from at least one foot above the normal water level to at least 3 feet below it.

Muskrat may also be

Pa. Bull Captures National Honors

A Pennsylvania bull, bred and raised in Somerset County, has capped a successful tour of the leading livestock expositions by winning the 1974 national grand championship of his

trapped or killed for control. However, poisons may not legally be used in muskrat control.

Muddy Water

The causes of muddy water in a pond could be almost anything from erosion to livestock wading in the pond. The cause should be corrected before attempting any treatment. Agricultural limestone (calcium carbonate) or Agriculture gypsum may be broadcast at the rate of 1,000 pound per surface acre of water to help clear muddy pond water.

With a little management and care, a pond can be a beautiful and valuable asset to a farm. If neglected, a pond can become an ugly mess.

breed in Denver, Colorado. "SHF Sir Royal Sam 1st," a two-year-old Charolais, added his latest honor at the 1974 National Western Livestock Exposition after a string of three grand championships and a reserve grand championship in his only four previous outings in the show ring.

"Sam" was born into the herd of John M. Dovey, Stone Hollow Farm, Davidsville, but has been touring the livestock show circuit under the colors of Pennsylvania State University, whose herdsman groom and show the one-ton beauty.

Dovey has since assigned one-third interest in "Sam" to PSU and sold one-third to the Royal Charolais Co., Youngwood, Pa.

In addition to the near-perfect record in the five leading livestock expositions in the nation, "Sam" is also unique in that he is a smooth polled Charolais. Smooth polled means the bull neither has horns nor the bone-like stubs that still remain in many polled (horn-less) cattle. "Sam" is the first polled bull to be named national grand champion of the Charolais breed.

Gov. Milton J. Shapp and Secretary of Agriculture, in separate letters to Dovey, congratulated him on the singular achievement and also for the prestige and honor it brought to the livestock industry of Pennsylvania.

The other grand championships were won at the Chicago International Livestock Exposition, the Ohio State Fair and Keystone International Livestock Exposition, Harrisburg. The big bull had to settle for a reserve or runner-up grand championship at the American Royal Livestock Exposition, Kansas City.

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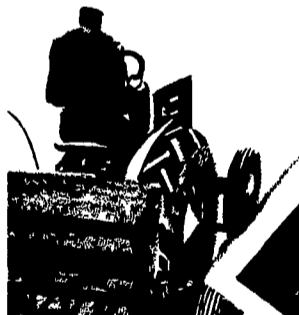
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