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From Local Ag Teachers:



## **Thoughts** in Passing

by: Gerald Phillips Agriculture Instructor Pequea Valley High School

**Hunting: Pros and Cons** With the number of editorials in recent days speaking for and against the sport of hunting, I'd like to take a few minutes and hopefully offer an objective viewpoint from one who is concerned about the conservation of our wildlife.

To take the stand of the anti-hunter is a very popular and increasingly safe viewpoint in light of the increasing concern and interest generated in ecology and conservation. Those who subscribe to this vein of reasoning are not without their reasonable convictions. Hunting is killing - make no bones about it! This is a onesided confrontation in that the animals and birds are defenseless to strike back. They have only their Godgiven natural instincts for escape and survival to protect them. Those who proclaim that the only way this can be considered a sport is to arm the game with firearms and ammunition and "may the best man win'', are not very far from the truth. How easy it is to win a football game when the other team never gets the ball: same reasoning, different perspective.

Yes, it would appear that hunters are monsters, blood thirsty ego maniacs who live only for those few days in the fall to vent all the frustrations of a year on poor innocent non-understanding wildlife. Surely no such person could have an ounce of integrity or self-respect within his soul!

On the other hand (and there are always two sides to a story). Hunters can safely counter attact the standpoint that animals always took

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care of themselves before man even appeared on the face of the earth. In those times the animals were the rulers of the earth and their numbers flourished and yet there was plenty for all. Since the advent of civilization and the ensuing growth and development of cities, shopping malls, industries and an ever increasing network of highways, flyways and byways, the space remaining for wildlife has just as rapidly decreased. To put it in simple language there just isn't the room available there once was. Wildlife need to have a controlled harvest season to keep their numbers to a manageable healthful figure. Without a hunting season of small game and deer the wildlife would grow to such vast numbers that they would begin to diminish the food supply available

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disease and a more lingering painful death than is felt by the marksman of our hun-

We as an intelligent people recognized and responded to a growing human population by supporting various population growth retardants. We must surely be able to recognize the same potential population crises with wildlife if they are left unchecked. Hunting would appear to be the sanest, simplest conservation and preservation method available to us at this time.

For those who subscribe to non-hunting my advise would be: fine, don't hunt, but remember that hunting is a valid, effective means of conserving remaining wildlife species. For those who are avid hunters: May I remind you to keep the hunting laws and limits in mind. They are designed to be fair to everyone-no need to be greedy. And use common sense when hunting-be sure of what you see--not what you want to see.

### Homemakers Holiday Meeting

Holiday decorations for the home and candlemaking will be demonstrations featured at the Chester County Extension Service holiday meeting at Kimberton Fire Hall on Tuesday, December 3.

Mrs. Galloway Morris will use live greens, pine cones, nuts and recycled materials found around the home as a Basis for table rangements, wall ornaments, and decorative items to create a festive mood.

For this program, there is a small charge which includes a luncheon. Preregistration is necessary by November 25. For tickets call or write the Cooperative Extension Service - 696-3500, Paul B. Dague Bldg., 235 W. Market St., West Chester, Pa. 19380.

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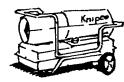
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