

TRY A CLASSIFIED

# Game law violations up 275 pct.

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Prosecutions for violations

of The Game Law and penalties collected established new records in 1976, according to the Game Commission.

Last year there were 11,108 Game Law prosecutions in the state. Penalties collected totaled \$496,624.

In 1975 there were 10,580 prosecutions for violations of The Game Law; and penalties collected totaled \$453,562.

Game Commission law enforcement officials have noted a steady increase in prosecutions during the last 30 years. In 1947, for example, there were 4,036 prosecutions, and fines assessed totaled \$132,895.

The number of prosecutions exceeded the 5,000 level in the early 1950s, and climbed to the 8,000 level by 1965. Prosecutions crossed the 9,000 mark in 1972.

While there has been a rather steady increase in the number of hunters afield during the past 30 years, the rate of increase for prosecutions is running well ahead of the percentage increase in hunters.

In 1947, for example, there were some 850,000 total licensed hunters in the state. Today there are about 1.25 million hunters, an increase of about 50 per cent compared to 1947, far less than the approximate 275 per cent jump in prosecutions during the same period.

It should be noted that, except for a few species, Game Law fines today are essentially unchanged from penalties set in 1937.

Law enforcement officials list several reasons for the increase in prosecutions. The number of district and deputy game protectors enforcing The Game Law is almost the same in 1977 as it was in 1947, despite the big increase in the number of hunters. However, these

officers obviously are doing a better job; the violators today are every bit as crafty and evasive as they were 30 years ago.

Better training of officers is boosting the number of prosecutions. The use of better and more sophisticated equipment, such as state-owned vehicles and an excellent radio system, certainly has helped.

But one of the most obvious elements in the increase in Game Law prosecutions is the growing disrespect for laws. While officers have stepped up efforts to inform and educate hunters, the general disregard for laws by more hunters is reflected in the rise in prosecutions.

Last year the Game Commission revoked the hunting and trapping license privileges of 1,489 persons for serious Game Law violations. The threat of losing one's license seems to be a big deterrent to many individuals who probably would ignore game regulations if only a cash penalty were imposed. The loss of license privileges is of major concern to offenders apprehended by game protectors.

## Prices received crawling upward

HARRISBURG, a. - The February 15 Index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers increased nearly two per cent from the previous month and one per cent above a year earlier according to the Crop Reporting Service.

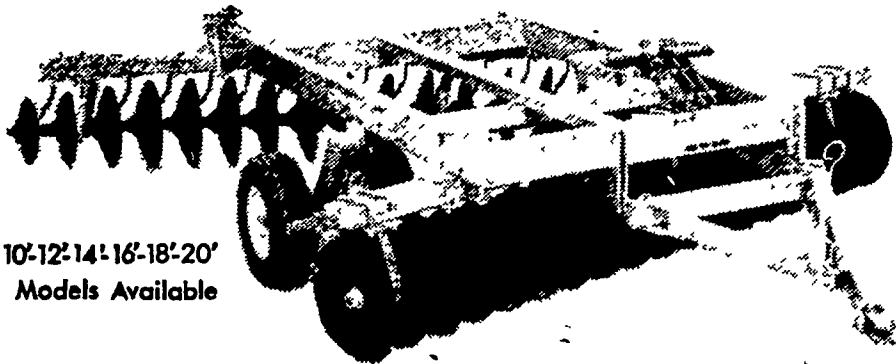
Higher prices for hay, potatoes, apples, hogs, lambs, broilers and eggs more than offset lower prices for grains, cattle, and milk cows. The purchasing power of prices received in February was one percentage point above January, but three percentage points below February 1976.

Nationally, the Index of prices received increased two per cent from January, but is unchanged from a year ago. Contributing most to the increase since mid-January were higher prices for cattle, broilers, hogs, soybeans, vegetables, and cotton. Lower prices for corn and milk were partially offsetting. The purchasing power at the U.S. level was two percentage points above February 1976.

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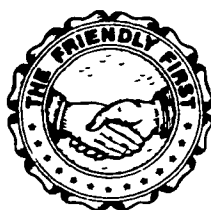
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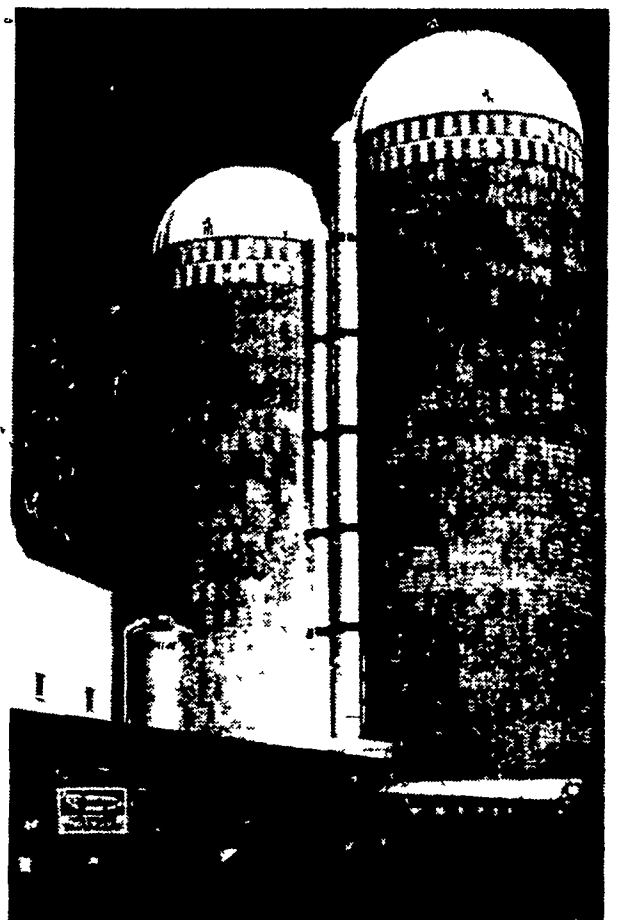
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