

Energy can be saved through wise landscaping

LANCASTER - Jerry Shaffer, agricultural consultant for the Pennsylvania Power and Light company (PP&L), believes that farm people oftentimes fail to consider landscaping as a factor for conserving energy. Some properly placed bushes and trees will conserve heat, besides adding beauty, he told a group of more than 200 dairymen gathered here earlier this month for Dairy Day.

Shaffer noted that his company quit promoting the use of energy about five years ago, and is now advocating the wise use and conservation of electricity. Aside from landscaping, Shaffer pointed out that energy can be saved by checking on-the-farm wiring and replacing old circuits as necessary; harnessing energy from milk cooler compressors to heat water; trading energy in the milk cooling process; and going to lighting systems which are superior to present systems.

Insulation is an area not to be overlooked. PP&L as well as other firms are suggesting that insulating materials be applied in thicker quantities, noting that this procedure is one of the best known ways to conserve energy.

One Akron area dairy farmer, Shaffer noted, is saving approximately 5000 kilowatt per year by utilizing heat from the compressor to supply hot water. At a cost of three to four cents per kilowatt-hour, the annual savings by this method alone amount to \$150 to \$200.

Expressing further concern of energy use, PP&L's chief executive officer, Jack Busby, on March 15 challenged area business and industry leaders to "look ahead" at the energy situation.

During a seminar at the Host Inn, Harrisburg, Busby said that a "look ahead" at the energy situation calls for action now. He said the greatest problem facing the economic community is that until recently "relatively few people seemed to be concerned about the adequacy of our nation's energy supplies five, 10 and 15 years down the road."

"I'm concerned that we will delay action too long to avert a severe energy shortage of long duration," the PP&L board chairman said. "Now is the time to look at energy for 1990. Indeed it's not too early to be taking a hard look at the year 2000."

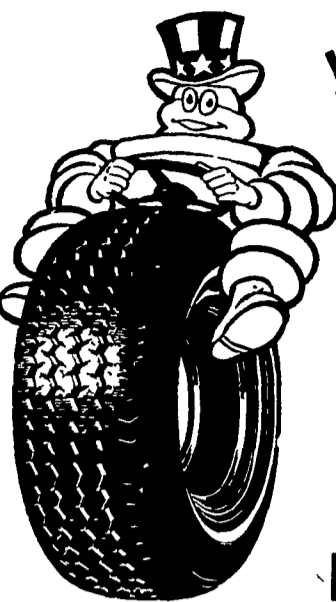
Busby pointed out that many forecasts have been made of the annual growth rate of electricity use between now and 1990.

"Currently the electric energy growth rate for the nation is being forecast by many economists to be in the five to six per cent range," he said. "Pennsylvania, based on past experience, might well have a slightly lower electric growth rate of around four per cent. These projections are lower than

the much higher growth rates prior to 1973, reflecting the impact of conservation, energy management and higher costs."

Busby said that it is also good policy to support public officials who have the courage to make the tough decisions that are required for our nation's energy survival.

"The short-term, easy way out is to go along with lower cost options and end up with eventual energy chaos," Busby concluded. "The costs of coordinated, long-term planning will be higher, but will assure us future energy supplies."



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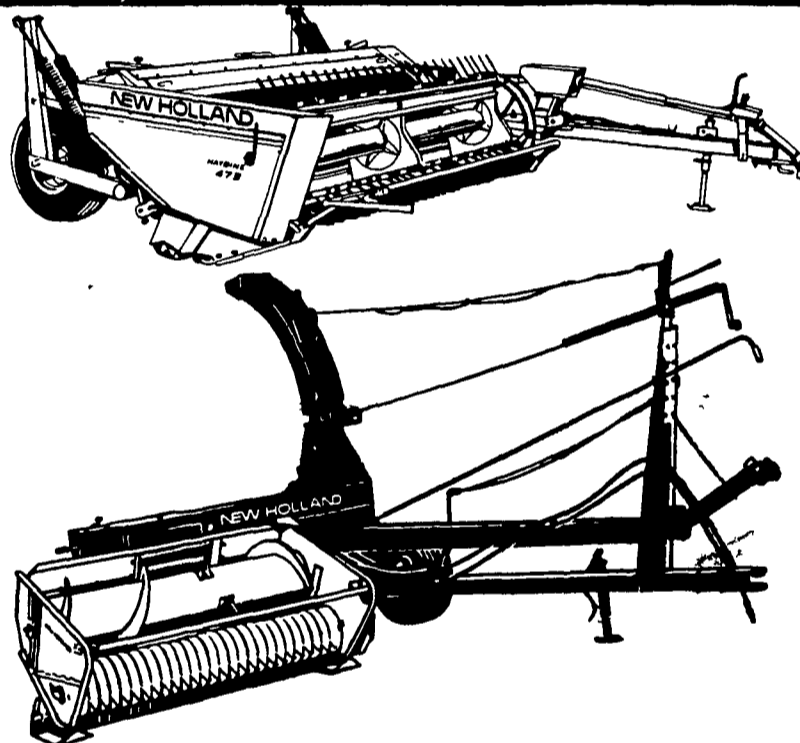
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