

Waterway rule changes questioned

HARRISBURG -- A spokesman for the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce told the Department of Environmental Resources that insufficient consideration had been given to both the immediate and long term economic consequences of proposed rule making changes affecting the state's waterways.

Lynn Ratzell, an environmental licensing engineer with Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and a member of the State Chamber's pollution abatement committee, told DER that some of the goals being proposed "cannot be

met because of the inability to control such things as pollution from natural sources, acid mine drainage, and the intensive use of multiple-use streams by waterborne transport."

Ratzell warned DER that it was proposing to adopt standards based on numbers proposed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency "that are still under review."

Underscoring the fact that this presents a "moving target" situation, Ratzell said the Chamber "questions the wisdom of issuing revised state standards that

may have to be changed in the near future."

He said the Chamber was concerned that "regulatory overkill could further contribute to the state's stagnant economic climate, which in turn will affect jobs."

Ratzell urged DER to have its technical advisory committee further study the proposed rule making changes. He also called for a series of statewide public hearings where the immediate and long range economic consequences of the proposed changes could be reviewed.

Farm building course available

UNIVERSITY PARK -- Planning to construct some farm buildings this summer? Remodel present structures for increased convenience and labor efficiency?

Well planned farm buildings sturdily constructed are needed for the best use of labor and equipment, say experts at Penn State. Remodeling old buildings is costly and often unsatisfactory. Sometimes construction of new buildings is more economical.

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ning the construction of new buildings or remodeling old structures, one can enroll in Penn State's correspondence course on Farm Buildings. Layout of buildings is presented and needs for firm footing and strong framing are explained. Types of building materials (wood, concrete, masonry, metal) are discussed. Paints, fences and their construction, insulation, and ventilation are included. Sample building plans are made available.

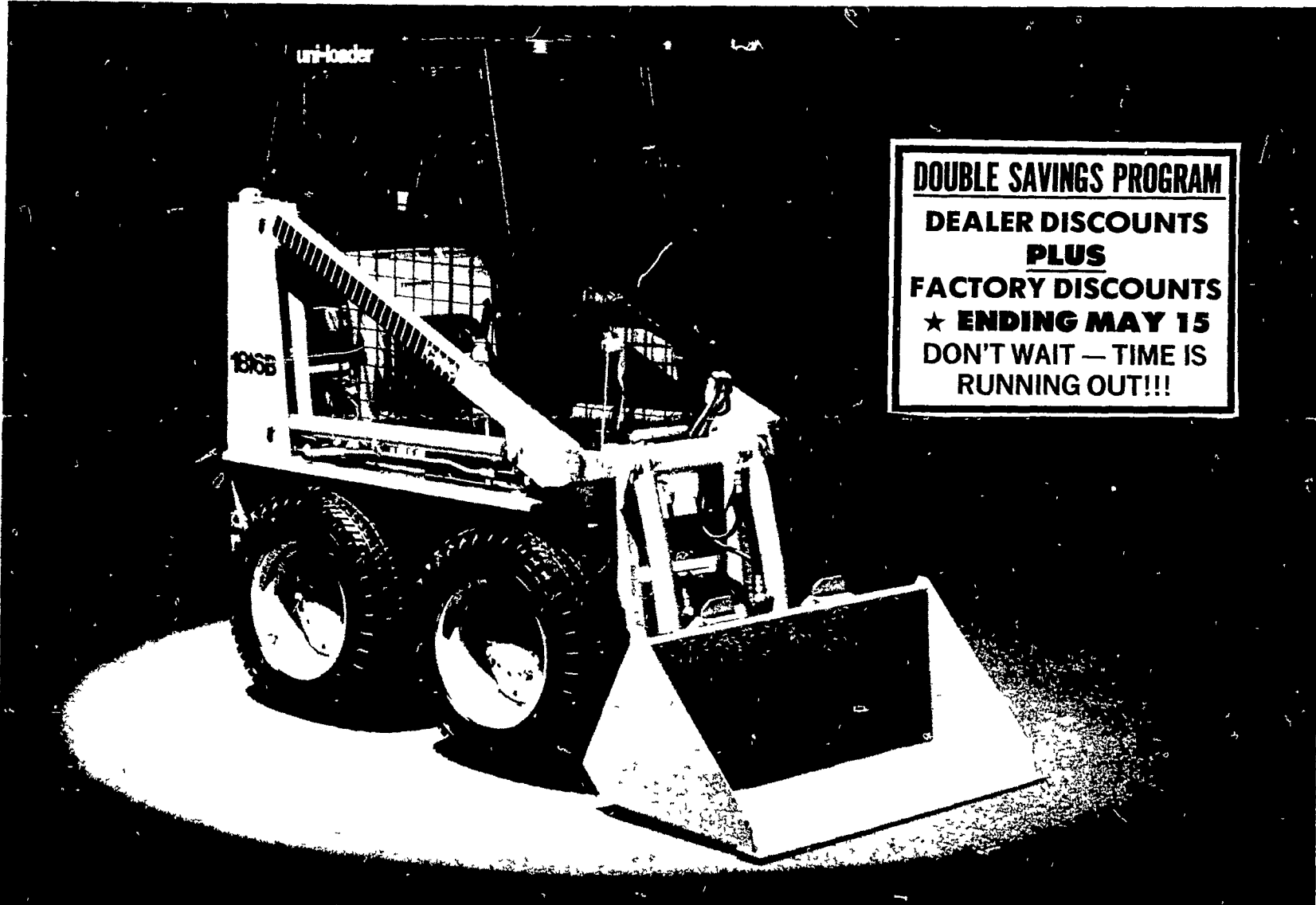
One can enroll in the course by mail by writing Farm Buildings, Box 5000,

University Park, Pa. 16802. Include \$5.50 with your name and address. There are no other charges. Penn State's correspondence course series offers the option of returning question papers for grading and for credit toward a Certificate of Accomplishment or using the course as valuable reference material.

USDA forms human nutrition policy committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Formation of a Human Nutrition Policy Committee was announced April 21 by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland. This Committee will be headed by Assistant Secretaries Carol Foreman and Rupert Cutler. The Committee will coordinate USDA nutrition programs including food assistance, safety, quality, research and education, and recommend appropriate nutrition policies and programs. As required by the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act, USDA must coordinate and implement its responsibilities concerning food and nutrition policy. "The human nutrition activities conducted by USDA for many years must now be enlarged, coordinated and given strong nutrition policy direction," Bergland said.

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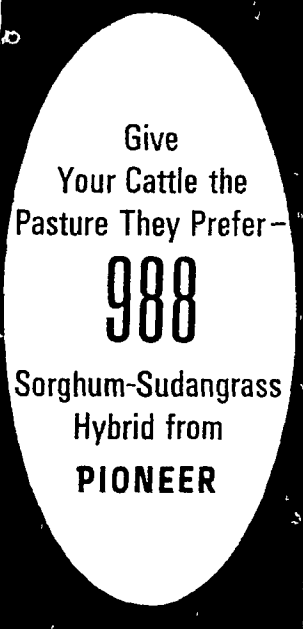
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