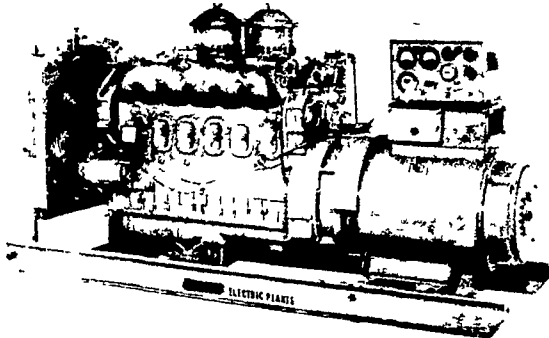


Wood burners are urged to be careful

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NEWARK, Del. - Energy-conscious, economy-minded Americans have revitalized an old industry long considered past history in the U.S.

Since the Arab oil embargo five years ago, the use of wood as an alternate heating fuel has created a growing demand for woodburning heaters, stoves, and furnaces, as well as wood splitters, chain saws, stack heat exchangers, and other auxiliary products.

The growth of the industry has been so phenomenal that building inspectors and insurance companies are having trouble keeping pace. In addition, consumers are buying and installing systems they know little or nothing about, sometimes with disastrous consequences.

Ron Jester, Delaware

Extension safety specialist, says the overall problem has been compounded by manufacturers, distributors and dealers who may not fully understand the principles of woodburning. They may offer insufficient or improper instructions to consumers regarding the installation and operation of these systems, and may even go against recommended safety procedures and codes.

In their eagerness to jump on the wood-burning bandwagon, consumers often buy inadequate units, then install or operate them incorrectly. Fire safety experts believe this fact is related to the growing number of home fires.

Because property damage losses have increased \$46 million in the past three years, some insurance companies have begun to lift coverage for homeowners who heat with wood, or penalize them through higher rates.

Building inspectors and fire safety officials are also becoming more cautious about codes and regulations regarding wood-burning systems in their communities.

Jester points out that heating with wood can be satisfactory and economical if the homeowner selects the right unit, installs and maintains it correctly, and operates it in accordance with recommended safety practices. Otherwise human lives and property are in jeopardy.

Buy from a reliable dealer, advises Jester, one who knows wood-burning systems and how to make them work efficiently and safely. Select the unit ac-

ording to the percentage of the total heating load you want it to handle. Buy a product made by a reputable manufacturer with a good track record for performance, safety, and customer service.

The system must be installed correctly, for safety as well as efficiency. Apply either local codes, or standards set by the National Fire Protection Association, whichever are stricter. Check the

manufacturer's and dealer's instructions against these standards. If they don't agree, take your business elsewhere, advises Jester.

Once installed, operate your system properly and keep it in top running order. Take time to learn its idiosyncrasies before you trust it. Burn only well-seasoned dry wood, without over- or under-firing. Inspect chimneys and stovepipes at least twice monthly, and clean them promptly when necessary.

Order 4 milk pooling rule is temporarily suspended

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Two milk pooling requirements under the Middle Atlantic federal milk marketing order will be suspended through February, 1979, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said recently.

Herbert L. Forest, dairy official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said one action, effective Nov. 1, suspends the requirement that a distributing plant sell at least 50 per cent of its milk for fluid use before it is eligible to have all its milk pooled and priced under the Order. This will continue an earlier suspension of this requirement that has been in effect since April.

The second action, which would apply to milk deliveries in Oct., suspends the limits on the amount of milk a cooperative or proprietary handler may move directly from farms to nonpool manufacturing plants and still have pooled and priced under the Order.

The suspension is based on testimony given at a public hearing on Oct. 3-4 in Philadelphia. The suspension was requested by Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, the largest cooperative in the market, and Michaels Dairies, Inc., a handler that operates a bottling plant pooled under the Order.

Evidence gathered at the

hearing showed that a continuing downward trend in Class I - or fluid-use - milk sales means that some plants are not able to meet the order's pooling requirements. As a result, Forest said, some dairy farmers' milk might not be priced and pooled under the order.

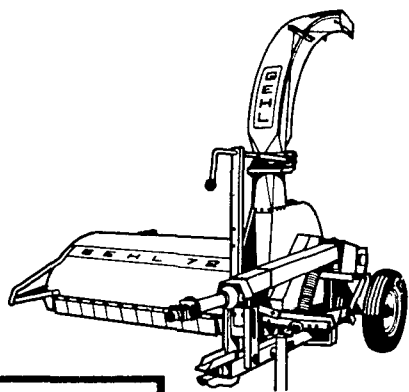
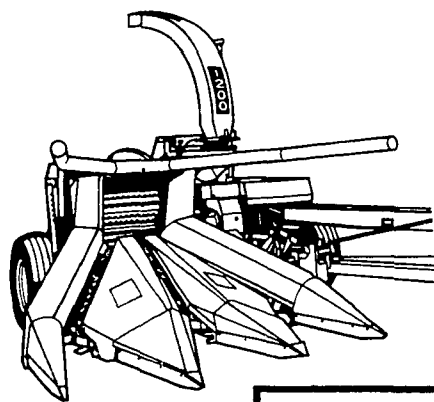
Wood burning seminar slated

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN - There will be a wood burning seminar open to the general public on Wednesday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m. in Building C, Room 119, of the Schuylkill Campus of The Pennsylvania State University.

The program is sponsored by the Schuylkill County Cooperative Extension Service and will be concerned with the safe installation and maintenance of wood stoves and chimneys, as well as the selection and storage of wood.

Ralph Bzura of Stoves and Stuff, and Walter Johnson, forest resources specialist from The Pennsylvania State University, will be the speakers.

The seminar is free and there will be door prizes. Registration is desirable and to do this call the Extension Office at 717-385-3431, or write to the Extension Office at P.O. Box 404, Schuylkill Haven, Pa. 17972.



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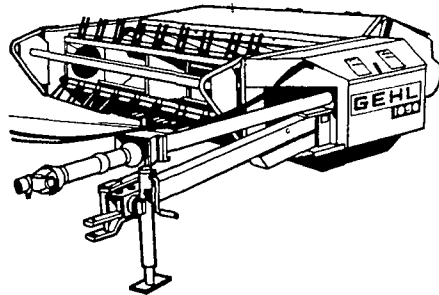
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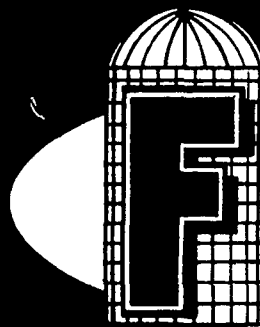
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