

# Is your home ready for Winter?

NEWARK, Del. - Is your home ready to stand up against Old Man Winter?

To find out, start by checking around windows, doors, and frames for holes and cracks that may let cold air in, says Delaware Extension family living agent Pat Wilson.

Many small holes and cracks let as much heat

escape as a large window would, so it's important to seal these up.

Caulking is an inexpensive method of sealing up cracks around windows, door frames, and chimneys. To caulk, first clean away any grease, dirt, or old caulking. Do this work early in the season or on a warm day, as the temperature must be

above 45 degrees F., Ms. Wilson cautions.

The best caulking is the latex type. It isn't too expensive, and the seal will last five years or more. Small cracks can be filled with cord caulking.

Caulking is usually applied with a caulking gun, which works best on larger cracks. It makes the whole job very easy. Just apply the caulk by pushing the gun along in the direction of the crack. This makes the best seal.

Large or deep holes can first be filled with oakum - a rope-like material sold in hardware stores.

Weather stripping is another inexpensive method of winterizing your home. Check to see if your doors or windows need weather stripping by placing your hand near them on a windy day. If you feel air, you need weather stripping.

On windows, most of the air will come through the cracks at the top, bottom, and center where the windows meet the casing. You can place folded cloth or newspapers in these areas and close the window to make a tight seal.

If cold air still comes through the sides of the window, buy some felt hair weather stripping and take it along the edge where the window slides up and down. Felt hair is inexpensive, and it really stops air leaks.

Also check the casing all around the window. If there are open seams between the casing and the wall, tighten the casing with nails or screws, and caulk if you need to.

Cold air can also find its way into your home through the door. Keep it out by adding molding at the top and sides. Once this is in place, tack some felt hair weather stripping to the molding so the door will seal tightly when closed. The crack at the floor can be sealed with a throw rug or weather stripping made especially for doors.

For added protection against cold air, you may want to cover the outside of your windows with heavy gauge plastic. You can put the plastic on the inside of the window in hard-to-reach areas such as upper floor or apartment windows.

If you have a screened-in

porch, it may also be wise to cover the screened area with heavy gauge plastic.

If your budget allows it, installing storm windows and doors is a wise investment which serves as a

good alternative to weather stripping.

Keep in mind that your fuel bill could be decreased greatly if you winterize your home to keep the heat in and the cold air out.

## Farm Credit to hold meeting

YORK - The Zembo String Band of Harrisburg, under the direction of Ronald W. Desenberg will provide the entertainment for the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of the Federal Land Bank and Production Credit Associations of York. This year's meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, at the Embers Restaurant on Route 11, North of Carlisle. Registration begins at 6:15 P.M. and dinner will be served promptly at 7 P.M.

The election of four directors and 1979 Nominating Committee will take place with reports of

association operations during the year presented.

The farmer-owned institutions make and serve farm and rural home loans in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Perry, and York Counties.

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Reservations must be made by Tuesday, November 7.

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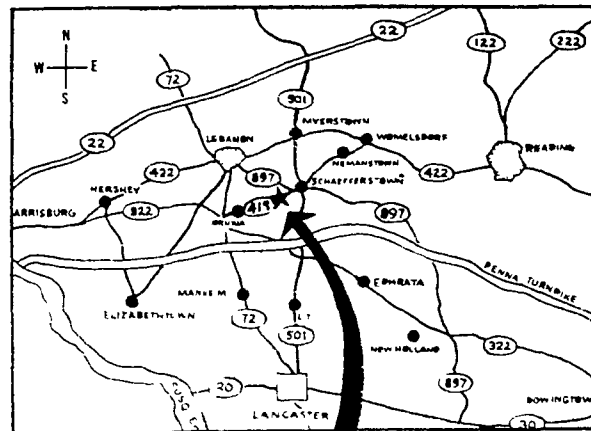


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