

# salt drift

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Nearly 33 years of meteorological data from the Naval Weather Service environmental detachment at the Naval Air Station - Patuxent River, located 24 miles downriver, indicated that wind directions in the area follow no established pattern. "There appears to be no favored wind corridor," Dr. Mulchi noted. With this in mind, the Maryland researchers observed that crop yields have not been significantly different from yields recorded before Chalk Point cooling tower unit No. 3 became operational.

However, available records indicate that the power plant has not been used to its maximum design capacity. Typically, it has been operating at only 20 to 30 per cent of that capability.

This explains why the salt drift effects from maximum power plant operation were simulated by agricultural experiment station workers at the University of Maryland tobacco research farm near Upper Marlboro.

The Maryland research workers will continue their monitoring operations in the Chalk Point vicinity and report their findings to the Maryland Power Plant Siting Program. They are also formulating new project models to make predictions concerning crop response to salt deposition.

For instance, an extremely dry period during the Summer increases river salinity, which would increase levels of salt drift from the cooling tower.

Dr. Mulchi suggests that PEPCO may be able to use the Chalk Point power plant cooling tower unit No. 3 at maximum design capacity during Winter months. At this season, the normal rainy cycle says fairly cycle stays fairly predicatable, and salinity levels are usually low. Furthermore, no farm crops are being grown at this time of year, and most native perennial plants are in a dormant stage.

A computerized meteorology dispersion model for natural-draft cooling towers like those at Chalk Point has already been developed by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory near Simpsonville (Howard county), utilizing data from the University of Maryland study.

With this model, Dr. Mulchi reported, the maximum area of salt deposition from the Chalk Point power plant was found to be within a half-mile radius of the cooling tower. No agricultural crops are currently being grown in this area. However, some natural vegetation, such as dogwood, may be adversely affected under these conditions.

# 4-H club doings told

FLEMINGTON, N.J.: The members of the Cherryville Homemakers are busy sewing for the upcoming Mid-Year Judging. Sleepwear and two piece outfits are being made along with bags, skirts, and tea towels.

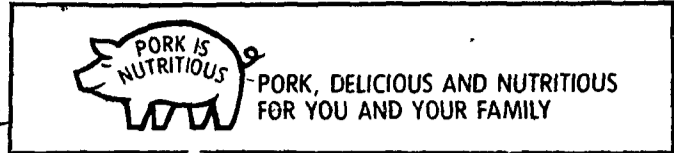
To complete their first 4-H Foods Unit, Tricks for Treats, the members of Country Cooks 4-H Club met to prepare a luncheon for their mothers. Each girl made a mum corsage for her mother.

Election of officers was held and they are as follows: President: Donna Cole, Vice President: Jill Cole, Secretary: Sharon Opyke, Correspondance Secretary: Sherri Bush; Treasurer: Sonja Cole, Reporter: Laurie Harrington, Scrapbook: Aubrey Adam, and Foods Council Representatives: Keely Frederiks.

The Twirlettes family night will be held on April 27th from 6 to 9 p.m. The family night committee members are Jenny Blemings, Shirley Lefebvre, Dana Ponzio and Cheryl Ernst. They are in charge of evenings program which will include a covered dish supper, awarding of pins, and twirling routines performed by club members.

Decorating the Hunterdon Medical Center window for February are Carrie Nor-

dland, Maron Waldron and Cindy Pollard. For the next meeting the club will practice a group routine.

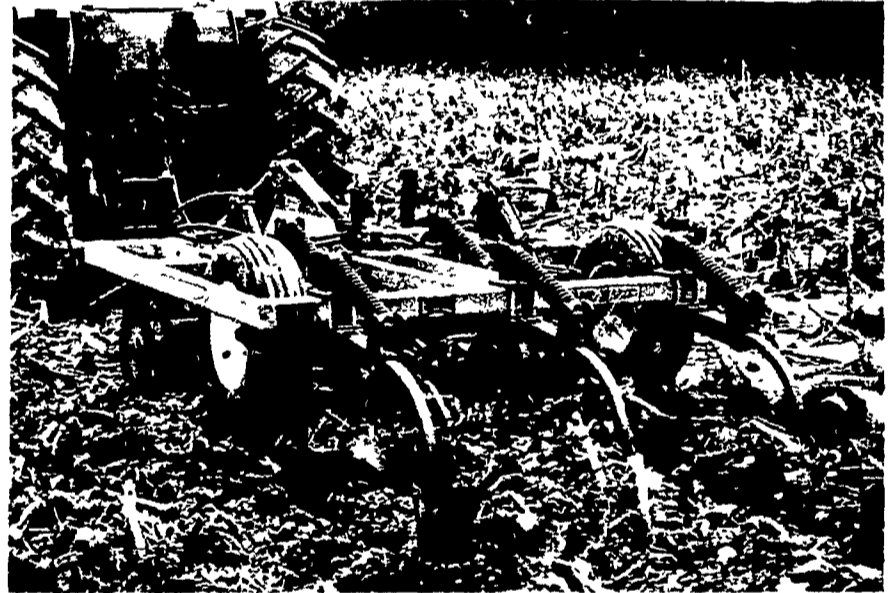


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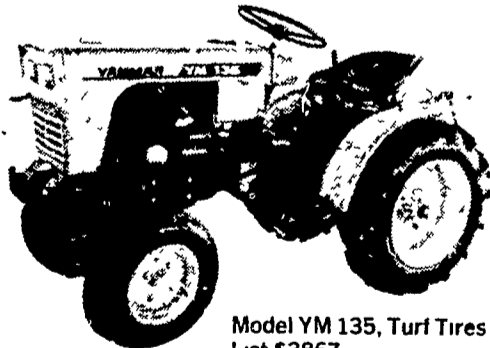
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