

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



The warm May weather makes everything grow rapidly. The weeds and grass in the perennial flower beds are growing tall and must be pulled. The sugar peas must be trained to grow on the fences and it is time to plant the lima beans.

But surely it wouldn't be wrong to take some time off and go on a hike with a friend in the woods. First, we spy several squirrels scampering up some beech trees, on the side of the trunk away from us. Later a large rabbit hops away through the brown leaves as we inspect the large clumps of white violets. My friend hears a splash in the Conestoga and looks quickly but only sees a pair of Mallard ducks swimming away from some overhanging limbs.

I've taken my camera along to photograph a large, wild, red and yellow Columbine but find that since Sunday, when I took the 4-H Wildlife members on a hike, it has lost most of its fragile flowers. It clings to a rock formation that houses a small den which may have been home to a foxes family.

The white, waxy yellow-tipped Dutchman's Breeches are still clinging to their arched stems but the Bloodroot flowers have

already lost their petals. The root of this plant was used as a dye by the Indians as a base for their war paint. Two easily recognized plants are the May Apple which forms an umbrella over the forest floor as it grows in dense patches and the Jack-in-the-Pulpit which grows on wooded hillsides. Its dried roots were used for flour by the Indians.

We return down the lane and after a cool drink of my garden tea and a soft molasses cookie, it is time to get back to the workaday world and do some of those necessary chores.

Kohl places in salesmanship

ELVERSON - In area FFA competition held recently at Cedar Crest High School, Lewis Kohl, Twin Valley FFA Vice-President elect won 5th place in the Salesmanship Contest. Contestants were given a selection of agriculturally related products which they had to arrange as a display. They each had to try to sell products to the contest judge; Mrs. Lowell Morton Sales representative for Agway, Inc. in Lebanon; as well as answer questions.

After completing their sales contestants filled out a sales slip, computed tax, and made change. Glen Wenger of Eastern Lebanon County High School won first place in this contest.

Cheese and ice cream sales keep rising

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Production of both American cheese and ice cream continues up, but butter output continues its down trend. March production of American cheese, at 185.3 million pounds, was up one percent from a year earlier, marking the 10th straight month that output has been above that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

At the same time, production of ice cream, at 71.1 million gallons, was up fractionally from March 1978 and this marked the third straight month - and 10th in the past 11 - that output has been above that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

But, March's butter production totaled only 89.3 million pounds, down nine percent from a year earlier. This was the 13th consecutive month that output

has been below that of a corresponding month a year earlier. The January-March totals: American cheese, at 525.1 million pounds, up five percent; ice cream, at 184.4 million gallons, up three percent; and butter, at 273.4 million lbs., down nine percent from a year earlier.

4-H club meets

LITITZ - The Lititz-Manheim 4-H club held its second meeting on May 10 and selected a new game leader. Laura Clark resigned from the office and Brenda Castle accepted the position.

The dues for 4-H members were set at \$1 per person. The treasurer would appreciate it if all dues could be paid by the next meeting. Jacob Fisher gave a talk on the caring for and the raising of rabbits.

The next meeting is set for June 14. All participating members will meet at the Fairland school at 6 p.m. for a progressive supper.

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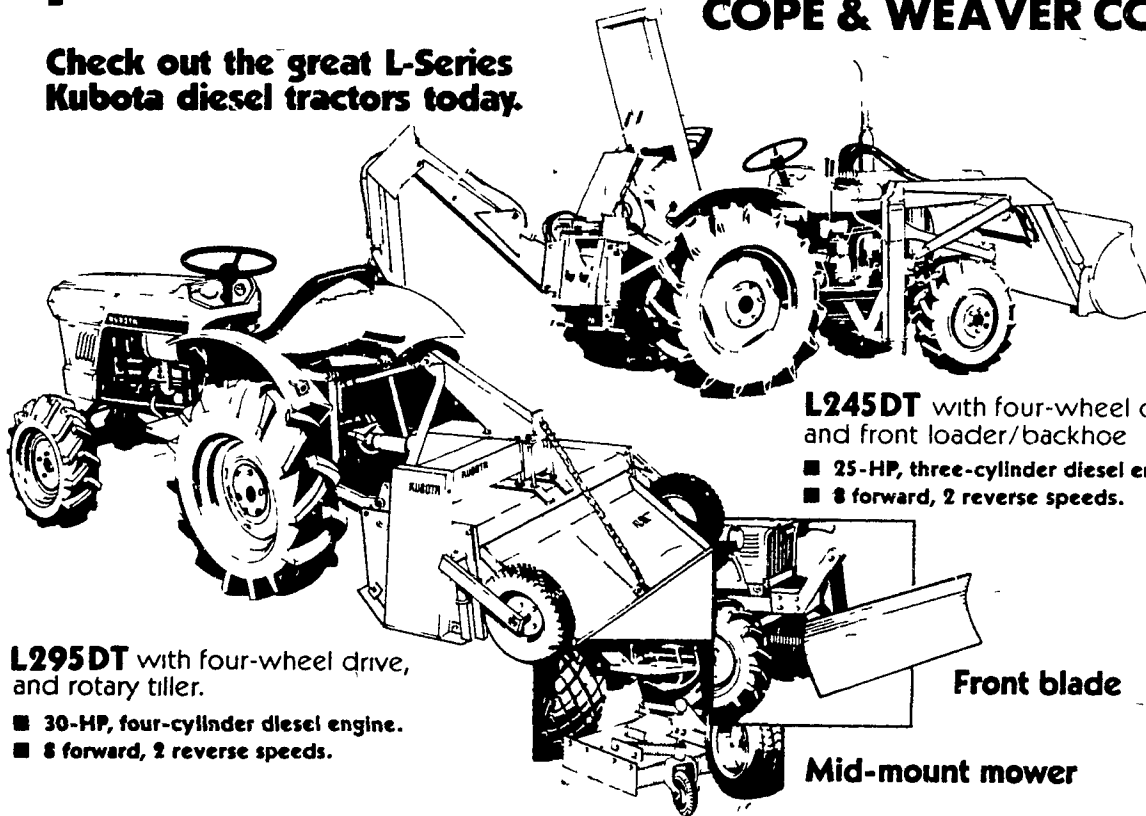
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