

Big farms dominate production

WASHINGTON, D.C. — of all farms last year, but nearly two-thirds of all farm production expenses. On the other hand, those farms with

gross sales of less than \$10,000 accounted for 38 per cent of all farms, but less than five per cent of all production expenses, according to Farm Production Expenditures for 1978, an annual publication issued by USDA's Crop Reporting Board.

The publication reported that production expenses for the nation's 2,366,060 farms totaled \$114.2 billion last year, up 16.6 per cent from the \$97.9 billion total of 1977.

Expenses averaged \$48,273 per farm in 1978, up from \$36,238 in 1977, according to the government figures.

Costs of feed, livestock, farm machinery, wages, and rent accounted for more than half of the over-all total, the same as a year earlier. But the sharpest rises were in costs of livestock, farm machinery, wages, and interest.

Livestock expenses jumped nearly a third; farm

machinery and interest each moved up 25 per cent.

Though feed expenses remained the top single item and moved up 13 per cent, they accounted for only 14½ per cent of all expenditures last year, compared to 14.8 per cent the year before.

The government report showed the nation's smaller farms operating at losses. The smallest, those with gross sales of less than \$2500 a year, had average farm expenses of \$6203.

Landscaping course offered

UNIVERSITY PARK - Does the outside of your home give you the feeling you are living in a jungle—even though you know you live in Pennsylvania? Many people have homes that are completely engulfed in plant materials because their homes are overpowered by large shade or evergreen trees that have been planted too close to the house.

Another common sight contributing to the atmosphere of a jungle is that of plants growing up over the windows so thickly that light cannot get into the house. Usually, the plants were planted too close together when they were small, and no one gave any thought to allowing space for growth as the plants increased in size.

With the beauty that is being built into most newer homes, there is no need to "hide" any part of the building as was common in the past. All landscaping should be done for a purpose. The most important places for shrubs or smaller plants around your house will be the corners and around the entrance. Your home may or

may not need plants between the door and the corner. Other uses you may find for plant materials around the foundation of your house could include framing your home or to soften large, unbroken wall surfaces.

To learn more about

landscape planning, send for Penn State's course titled, Landscape Planning For Small Properties. You get the course by sending \$4.25 plus 25 cents postage, to Landscaping, Box 5000, University Park, PA 16802. Make check payable to Penn State.

Lancaster Co.

(Continued from Page 18)

nursery. In the Fall, she will be returning to York College where she is majoring in police science.

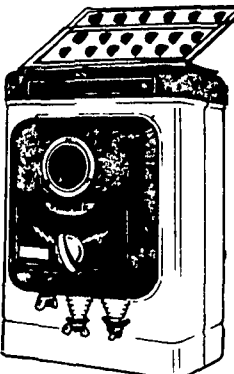
Her father is the veterinarian at Victor Weaver, Inc.

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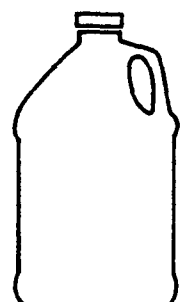
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