

Don't get burned by wood stove problems

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Heating with wood is the age-old way to keep warm. Some say it's the original way to keep warm.

And, through the years, there have been many improvements and refinements in wood-burning stoves. Today we have available to us modern, high-quality wood stoves that are efficient, comfortable, convenient, and economical. A good wood stove can supplement your home's oil or gas-fired system, reducing fuel costs significantly.

There are some "ifs" to contend with...such as, if wood is available at reasonable price. Other "ifs" include careful selection and installation of

stove and its operation and maintenance, says Hunterdon County, N.J. extension agent Calvin Wettstein.

Beware though. Wood stoves can be hazardous. They can cause a house fire if they are not installed properly, not kept in safe condition, and are handled carelessly.

The fire hazards include chimney fire caused by creosote build-up, sparks or flame escaping from faulty chimney, ceiling or walls overheating, falling sparks on the floor.

Wood burners can reduce these hazards and burn wood safely if they exert care in choosing, installing, operating and maintaining your stove.

Start by choosing a safe stove. It should bear the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

Consider the material - cast iron and steel plate are safest, most durable; quality of construction - door gaskets air tight, joints sealed, fire box lined with brick, unless it's cast iron, latch secure and a draft control; size - not too large, or too small; design - with safety and efficiency in mind.

There are choices in design: airtight, open front (not as safe as closed, even if screen is used), circulating.

A safe chimney has to be an early consideration. Perhaps even before stove

selection. Have it checked by an expert. Repair if needed.

If a new chimney is to be built, decide if it will be masonry or one of the approved stainless steel chimneys available today.

There are a number of safety considerations in installing the chimney, whether masonry or pre-fab.

Installation is next. The check list goes like this: choose the right location for heat distribution and safety; have proper clearance to protect walls and floor; install stovepipe safely.

Installation isn't a job for a novice. Get expert help. Ask a building inspector about safety guidelines and local regulations. Follow manufacturer's instructions.

Notify the insurance company. The company may have safety standards, and may even deny coverage to owners of a wood stove.

Don't allow a stove to overheat. Don't let the fire burn too low. A too-low draft will cause incomplete burning and dangerous creosote buildup.

Do burn seasoned wood, install a smoke detector and have a fire extinguisher handy, bring fresh air into the house, keep fire tools handy, empty ashes regularly - and put them outside, have an escape plan.

Don't burn trash or garbage in your stove, don't use flammable liquids to start a fire, don't store wood, paper, or other flammables near the stove.

Finally, maintain the wood stove and chimney in good condition. Inspect the whole

system before the heating season begins.

Clean the chimney at least once a year.

Check for leaks in the stove and stove pipe once a month.

Clean the stove pipe regularly with a wire brush. Check door gaskets and caulkings; renew if necessary.

Check damper - is it functioning properly?

Check firebox liner.

Watch out for creosote. All wood stoves cause creosote buildup. A cold chimney, slow fire and green wood make it worse.

Creosote is flammable, so prevent formation by periodically allowing stove to burn its hottest for a few minutes to burn deposits off stovepipe and flue. Don't burn green wood. And, check frequently for creosote buildup.

Willison is grad. auctioneer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Art Willison, 3682 Jennings Chapel Rd., Woodbine, MD, has just returned from Kansas City, Missouri, where he successfully completed the course in Auctioneering and Auction Sales Management at the Missouri Auction School.

He received his diploma and the honorary title of Colonel along with men and women auctioneers from throughout the United States and Canada.

The concentrated two week course is conducted by the Missouri Auction School at the world's largest auction training center in the Kansas City Stockyards. His training included lectures and work-shops featuring prominent auctioneers from throughout America.



Art Willison, right, recently received his auctioneer's diploma from L. Dick Dewees, of the Missouri Auction School.

Egg production jumps 14 percent

HARRISBURG — December 1979 egg production in Pennsylvania totaled 368 million, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The December production was 14 percent above the 324 million eggs produced in December 1978. The December average of 16.7 million layers was 11 percent higher than a year ago.

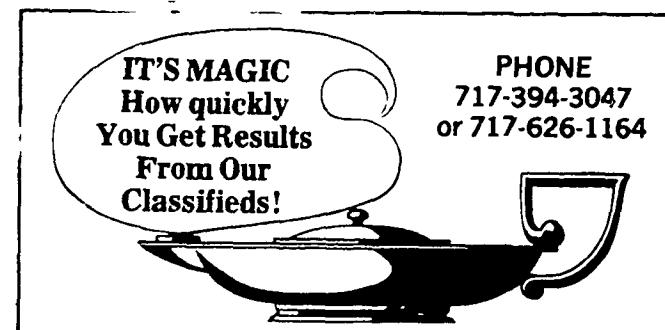
Egg production per 100 layers was 2204 compared with 2158 in December 1978.

The nation's laying flocks produced 6.06 billion eggs

during December 1979, two percent more than a year ago. The number of layers during December averaged 295 million compared with 292 million in December

1978.

Egg production per 100 layers during the month was 2054 compared with 2033 a year ago.



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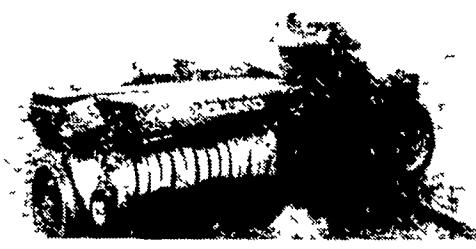
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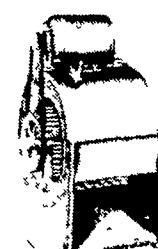
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