

## Forest game program acreage tops 600,000

HARRISBURG — The enrollment of the newest cooperator in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Forest Game Cooperative Program has pushed the total number of acres involved over the 600,000 mark.

The newest cooperator is The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company of Spring Grove, York County, which has enrolled nearly 25,000 acres of its land in Bedford, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry and

Snyder Counties in the program.

Most of the 98 Glatfelter tracts involved are reverting farm land in the ridge and valley sections, which have been planted with various species of pine.

Some of the acres involved were previously enrolled in the Game Commission's Cooperative Farm Game and Safety Zone Programs.

All of Glatfelter's timber lands are enrolled in the American Tree Farm System. The Tree Farm System recognizes tracts

which are being managed for timber, wildlife, watershed protection and recreation.

Glatfelter pioneered Tree Farms, and was the first enrollee in the program in Pennsylvania.

Under the Forest Game Program, large wooded tracts which are enrolled are open to all responsible hunters. The privately-owned lands, in turn, are protected by Game Law enforcement officers.

For years, landowners were plagued by a few inconsiderate slob who dumped garbage, litter and worn-out major appliances, abandoned disabled vehicles, cut and removed firewood without permission, damaged roads, trails, signs, gates, etc. Cleanup and fixup operations caused severe inconveniences and at times rather extensive financial losses.

To combat the private hardships, and to guarantee access to these holdings by hunters, the Game Commission established its Forest Game Program, patterning it generally along the lines of its Farm Game and Safety Zone Programs.

Under the Forest Game Program, over 600,000 acres are guaranteed available for

use by hunters. The period of heaviest utilization comes during the deer season. In return for public hunting rights on the land, the Game Commission provides the services of game conservation officers, who enforce the Game Law and prevent abuse and misuse of the property and the landowners' rights.

Cooperators have found fewer serious problems with hunters after enrolling their tracts, while the sporting public is able to enjoy recreational opportunities on the properties, some of which might have been closed to public hunting or restricted in access.

Quite a few deer (as well as other game) are harvested on Forest Game Lands, to the advantage of hunters. The wildlife har-

vest, on the other hand, has helped keep the deer herd under control, which means less wear and tear (browsing) on the range, to the benefit of the forests and property owners.

During certain seasons of the year, some roads on certain Forest Game tracts are closed to vehicular traffic, either by gates or signs. These roads are closed because traffic will result in severe ruts, vehicles getting stuck in mud or snow, etc.

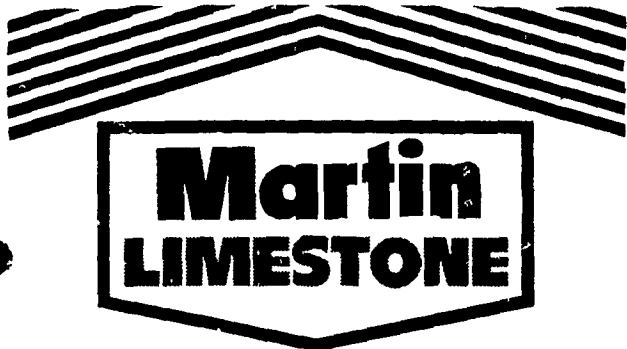
Landowners are then forced to pay for repairs to damaged roads. Respect for closing these trails must be shown by the general public, or prosecutions by Game Law officers will follow.

The 600,000-plus acres of land guaranteed open to public hunting through the

Forest Game Program are but a small part of the Game Commission's total program which in 1979 resulted in more than 8 million acres being utilized by the general hunting public.

Over 1.2 million acres of State Game Lands, properties which have been purchased since 1920 by the Game Commission with funds derived through the sale of hunting licenses, were utilized by hunters in Pennsylvania last year.

About 2 million acres in the Farm Game Programs were open to public hunting in 1979, while the Safety Zone Program also provided approximately 2 million acres of public hunting grounds. These lands make up the bulk of the best small game habitat in the state.



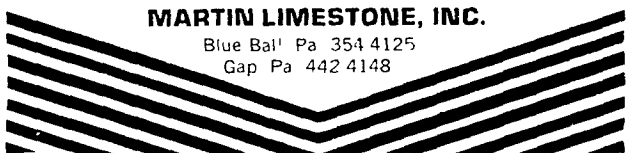
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## Marketing spread blamed for 1979 food price rise

WASHINGTON — The difference between what farmers receive and consumers pay for food — called the marketing spread — widened nearly 12 percent in 1979, the largest increase in five years, according to a report issued today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The marketing spread, representing charges for handling, processing, and distributing a market basket of U.S. farm foods, accounted for slightly over half the 10.8-percent rise in grocery store food prices last year.

Increased farm value accounted for about a third of supermarket food increases and higher fish and imported food prices accounted for the rest of the 1979 gain, according to the report by USDA's

Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service.

Unlike the farm value of food, the marketing spread has risen each of the past 10 years and has been the most persistent cause of rising food prices, the report said.

The report also shows these facts about 1979 food prices:

Grocery store food prices increased only 3.9 percent (annual rate) in the last six months of the year; but a 15.5 percent annual rate during the first half raised the average for the whole year to 10.8 percent.

Farmers received about 39 cents of every food dollar spent in grocery stores, virtually the same as in 1978.

Retail prices rose 17 percent for red meat, 12 percent for fresh fruits and vegetables, 10 percent for bakery products, 8 percent for fats and oils, and 5 percent for poultry.

Dairy product prices went up 12 percent, while egg

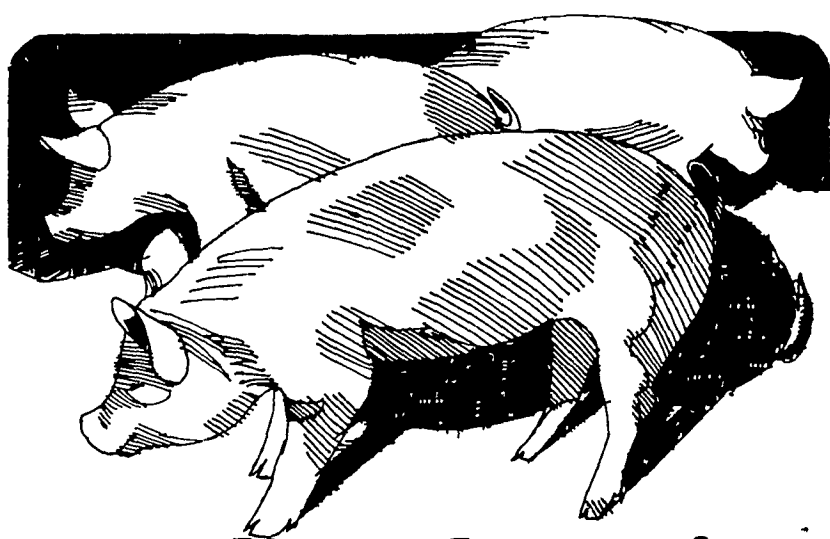
prices averaged 10 percent higher.

Prices of inputs, such as fuel and food containers used by food processors and retailers, rose 13.5 percent.

Average hourly earnings of workers in processing and retailing rose 8.3 percent.

After-tax profits of food chains with over \$100 million in annual sales averaged one percent of sales for the second and third quarters combined of 1979, compared with 0.9 percent during the same period in 1978. After-tax profits of food manufacturers averaged 3.4 percent of sales during the first 9 months of 1979, compared with 3.2 percent a year earlier.

Single free copies of "Developments in Marketing Spreads for Food Products in 1979" (AER-449) are available from ESCS Publications, room 0054-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. or call 202/447-7255; please indicate your zip code.



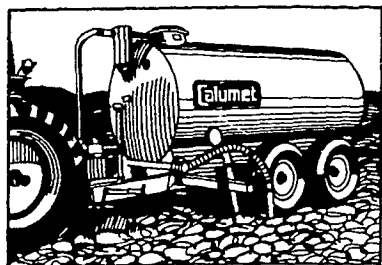
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## Star Rider Horse Club

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The All English Horse Show was the main topic covered at the recent meeting of the Star Riders 4-H Club. Presentations were given

at the meeting on "Snakes" and "Tack Cleaning."

The club's next meeting is scheduled for April 4 at the Cain residence in Glen Gardner. Reported by April Harrison.

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