

Helps local clubs feed and stock trout

Raising trout keeps Arthur Ames in the swim of things

BY PAT KAUFFMAN
NEW HOLLAND — Those you're after this season were mere 3-4 inch fingerlings last year.

Somewhere in the past year, those fingerlings were stocked in nurseries and fed, usually twice daily. Then just before the season, they were netted from their surroundings and stocked in local streams. While the Pennsylvania Fish Commission stocks most of the streams, many local sportsmen's clubs also do their share to assure a good supply for eager anglers.

Arthur Ames, New Holland, is a member of three such clubs — Penn Dutch Sportsmen, Northeastern Lancaster County Rod and Gun Club, and Beartown Sportsmen. He explained that since he retired from Armstrong, he finds helping with the trout rearing keeps him active. Ames said all three clubs start young fingerlings which they obtain from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, in June. Then throughout the year, they house the fish in spring-fed nurseries, feed graduated mixes of feed, and beginning early April and into May, stock the trout in open streams.

Penn Dutch Sportsmen last season, stocked Spring Ike, Cedar Run and Groff's Run in addition to conducting their annual fishing derby. In total, the club stocked 2891 trout. The fingerlings are received free of charge from the Fish Commission providing they are stocked in open waters. The 1600 pounds of feed that were required to raise the fish cost the club \$358.57. Total cost per fish raised was 12¢.

While the feed and fish are relatively inexpensive, and the care not difficult, the facilities are extremely important. The water must be fresh, which generally means a spring-fed holding area for growing the fish. According to Ames, given proper food and water conditions, the fish should grow about 1 inch per month.

The Northeastern Club leases spring-fed nurseries

on the Harry Burkholder farm, New Holland. Here in cement pools, the fish are held throughout the year. Three areas approximately 8 feet x 12 feet held the 3,000 fingerlings until they are legal size.

Incorporated into the holding areas are screens to separate the various nurseries and a long water wheel the width of the pool to aerate the water. Here the Fish Commission brings a truck to stock the fish for the club, usually providing a

small quantity of starter feed, and frequently, a terramycin feed additive to protect the fish from the stress of the move.

The trout are then fed a variety of mixes starting with a number 3 salmon crumbles. These crumbles contain approximately 50% protein along with fat and fiber. The size of the crumbles increases gradually and the protein decreases as the fish grow. Generally, Arthur notes, the

fish are maintained on a 5/32", 36% protein pellet.

Penn Dutch Club leases its nursery space at the farm of Norman Wenger. The spring on the farm dates back over 200 years according to Ames and is known as the Wenger-Groff spring. This strong old spring starts in the basement of the Wenger

home and feeds out to stone enclosed ponds with picturesque arches and a gentle drop. This is the Groff's Run headwater. Here the club hopes to raise approximately 5,000 trout for the 1981 fishing season. In addition, the club plans to hold approximately 500 palomino and brown trout

over until next year to grow to trophy fish size.

Ames noted that the club decided this year to stock 20 marked fish about ½ mile downstream from the nursery. In less than three days, 17 of the fish had worked their way upstream through the watercross

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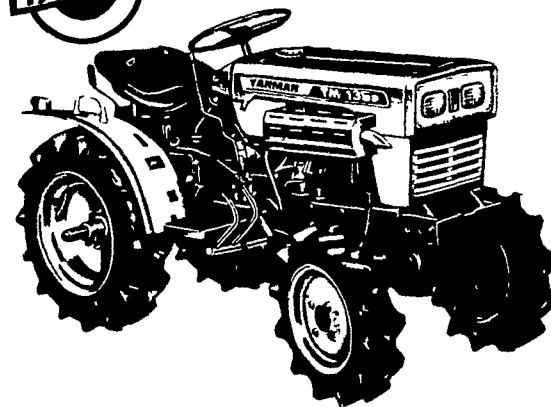


Arthur Ames stands near one of the picturesque stone arches at the nursery Penn Dutch Sportsmen lease on the Norman Wenger Farm.

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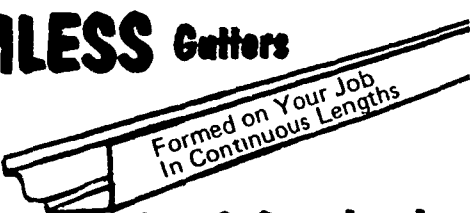
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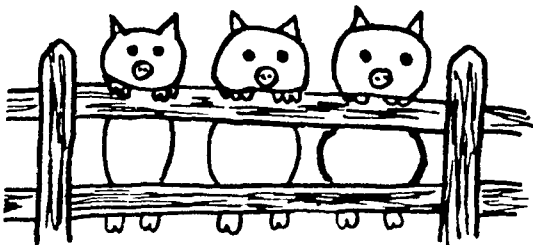
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