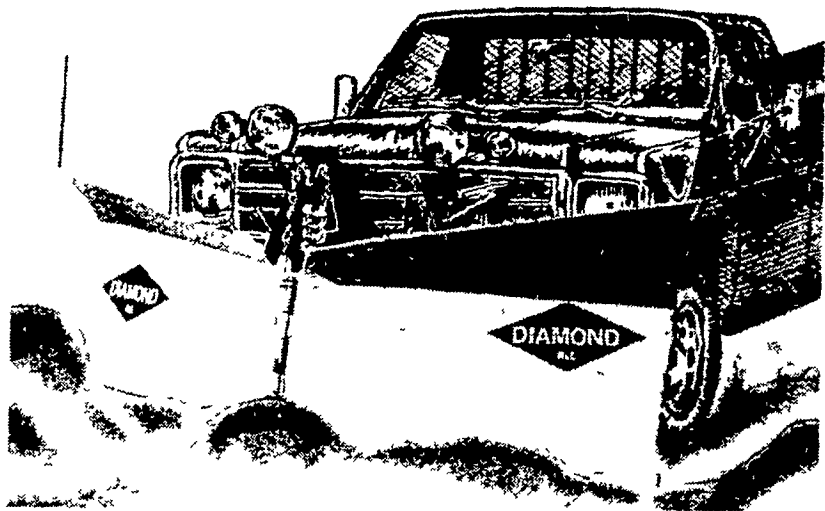




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Organic versus conventional farming

UNIVERSITY PARK — Conventional and organic farming have much in common. They differ principally in the use of modern chemical technology. Conventional farmers use commercial fertilizers, pesticides and animal feed additives to increase productivity, but organic farmers prefer to use natural resources.

"Organic and conventional farming are similar in many respects," says Peter A. Ferretti, extension horticulturist at Penn State, "but they differ in their use of the products of chemical technology. Conventional farmers use them, but organic farmers prefer to avoid them."

Organic farmers prefer to use naturally occurring chemicals such as phosphate rock and limestone, manures produced by domestic animals, nitrogen derived from the atmosphere by leguminous plants, and substances with pesticidal properties that are produced by certain plants.

Conventional farmers use these chemicals and, in addition, use commercial fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, nutritional additives in animal feeds, and animal drugs.

Conventional farmers have been adopting the new technologies to increase their profits. Early adopters of new technologies have made extra profits, but these were not sustained when the technologies were widely adopted because the new methods increased agricultural production, and prices then declined, transferring most of the economic benefit to consumers.

Plant residues and animal

manures available on farms are valuable because they contain nutrients required by plants and because they improve the physical properties of soils.

Both organic and conventional farmers use them, and the amount of these forms of organic matter returned is frequently greater in conventional farming than in organic farming because of higher yields.

"We have put most of our emphasis on organic gardening rather than organic farming," says Ferretti. "Organic gardening is a considerably more attractive and feasible proposition than is organic farming. In farming, there just isn't enough organic matter to go around. Farmers can't grow enough on their own farms. To meet the nutrient needs of their crops,

they would need to bring in the organic matter from several other farms. Organic gardeners operate on a small scale and can usually apply grass clippings and leaves from their own land and sometimes additional organic matter from other areas.

"Organic gardeners can control weeds by manual methods that aren't feasible for farms. Gardeners can choose fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals that usually survive without pesticides and, of course, if the yield is poor as a result of nutrient deficiencies, or if part of the produce is lost to pests, gardeners haven't suffered a financial disaster because organic gardening is a hobby, not the primary source of livelihood. They can always go to the store and purchase what they need."

Cumberland Co. DHIA

(Continued from Page C18)

David S Miller	6	21 083	3 0	622
Cynthia Roseann	4	24 478	3 5	845
John F Stoltzfus				
Betty Jewel	6	20 466	3 5	711
Molly Sara	5	23 430	3 7	864
Sara Twin	5	19 546	3 5	693
Rosa Kate	7	15 553	3 9	614
Mervin E Ruppert	6	19,574	3 9	769
Trouble	3	20 400	4 0	814
Joe & Brenda Cochran	2	19 101	3 4	645
Highlight	3	18 523	3 7	685
Corneia	5	17 288	3 6	616
Allen B Martin	6	20 998	3 7	769
38	4	18 472	3 3	605
Paul Senseng				
Fayanna	4	18 472	3 3	605
Harvey Newswanger	6	19 108	3 5	666
11	4	17,822	3 5	617
Francis Mains				
3	3	15,671	4 2	658
29	4	17 891	3 8	675
M Thomas Sheaffer				
Pamela	4	20 415	3 3	683
Cope	7	21 854	3 1	677
Mains Acres				
22	7	19 250	4 2	807
125	3	17 004	3 9	669
185	3	12 820	4 8	609
72	3	19 196	3 3	637
Lee A Hoover Jr				
Carrie	6	20 942	3 6	756
Liza	6	22 479	3 4	760
Nevin Shughart				
Sally	9	15 859	4 6	722
Grace	6	20 117	3 6	721
Sissy	3	17 214	4 3	744
Wilda	4	15 975	4 1	658



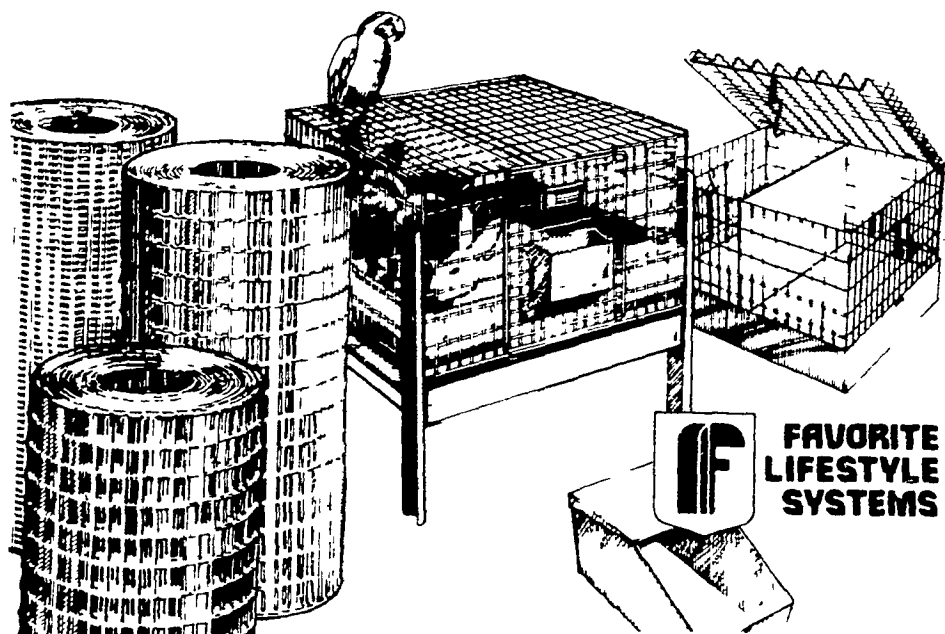
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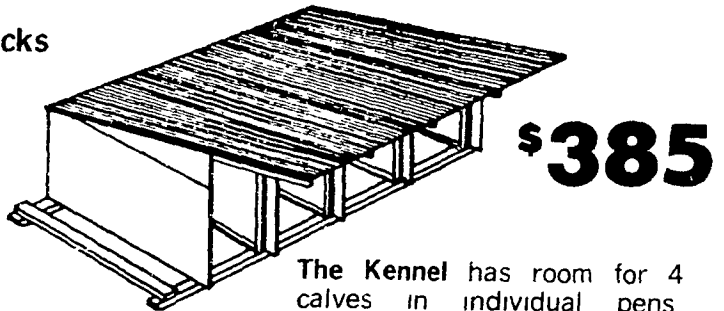
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