

# Monroe County agent retires

STROUDSBURG — John E. Withrow, Monroe County Extension Director on Penn State's Extension Service staff, retired January 16 with almost 28 years of service.

Withrow, a native of Washington County was appointed to the Extension staff in 1953 as an assistant agent in both Cumberland and Perry counties. In 1954 he was assigned full time in Cumberland County and in 1962 was promoted to Monroe County agent.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in agricultural education from Penn State and has attended Extension Summer School at Cornell University and Colorado State University. Prior to joining the Extension Service, he worked in research and administration at the Los Alamos, New Mexico, Scientific Laboratory.

During his tenure as Monroe County agent, he has developed educational programs to meet the needs of a rapidly growing county located in the Pocono Mountains, the largest recreational area in the East.

Withrow was directly responsible for the initiation of planning in Monroe County. In 1963, the agent, working with numerous organizations, developed eight community planning seminars which were supported by 11 key organizations.

As a result, a new county planning commission was



John E. Withrow

formed along with six township planning commissions. He continued to conduct educational programs for county and township planning members and local government officials.

He also conducted programs on land use planning and taxation and held public meetings on the implementation of Act 319.

The retired extension agent organized a wildlife essay and exhibit contest, held in conjunction with National Wildlife Week in elementary schools in all county schools. In the last 12 years, nearly 12,000 essays have been written and judged and 2200 exhibits have been constructed and exhibited publicly.

He also organized a series of meetings on wildlife and land use management and water quality for sportsmen.

During his tenure in Monroe County, the agent

assisted in the development of 17 new commercial campgrounds. He also edited a regional newsletter for campground owners.

Active in 4-H horse club work, he has written a handbook for all 4-H leaders and one specifically for horse leaders. He organized one of the first 4-H horse clubs in the state in Cumberland County in 1955. Horse club members have typically made up one-third of the total 4-H enrollment in Monroe County. He served nine years as chairman of regional horse shows.

Through his interest, more than 50 guide dogs for the blind were raised and trained by 4-H'ers in a project initiated by Withrow prior to Penn State's active involvement in the program.

To meet the needs of homeowners with horticulture-related problems, he initiated a Garden Notes newsletter that currently reaches 3500 families. Innumerable workshops, meetings, seminars, and demonstrations have been conducted in this program area.

Another effort was the successful establishment of a farmer's market for part-time producers in 1980.

Withrow was instrumental in the development of a Firewood Field Day which involved many agencies and dealers in an educational presentation which attracted several thousand persons.

He has coordinated training sessions for commercial applicators and

# Young farm workers need training exemptions

GEORGETOWN, Del. — High school students planning to work on a farm this summer should make sure they have training exemptions before applying for a job. This is very im-

portant, says Ron Jester, Delaware extension safety specialist.

The child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act state that youth under 16 cannot be employed in certain hazardous agricultural operations unless they have had special training and received a certificate.

The provisions do not apply to youth working on the farms of their parents or guardians, but the training is still essential, says Jester.

Among the hazardous jobs not open to youth are operating a tractor over 20-horsepower, operating or assisting with the operation of certain pieces of farm machinery, operating or assisting with trenchers, fork lifts, chain saws, or other types of machines, and working inside airtight produce and grain storages or silos.

Other forbidden jobs involve working at high elevations, handling hazardous materials, working pens with breeding stock, handling explosives or anhydrous ammonia, working in heavy timber operations, transporting passengers in buses, tractors, trucks or autos, or riding on a tractor as a passenger or helper.

In certain of these operations, notes Jester, 14 and 15 year-old farm workers can receive exemptions if they have completed formal training in these areas.

Training programs available for 14 and 15 year-olds teach them about normal working hazards involved with tractor and farm machinery. Written and operational examinations test their knowledge of the correct use of machinery.

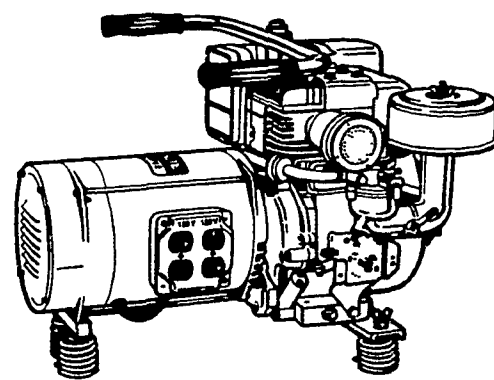
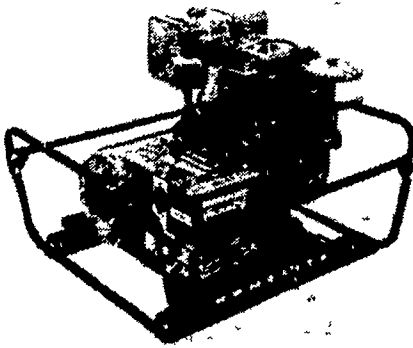
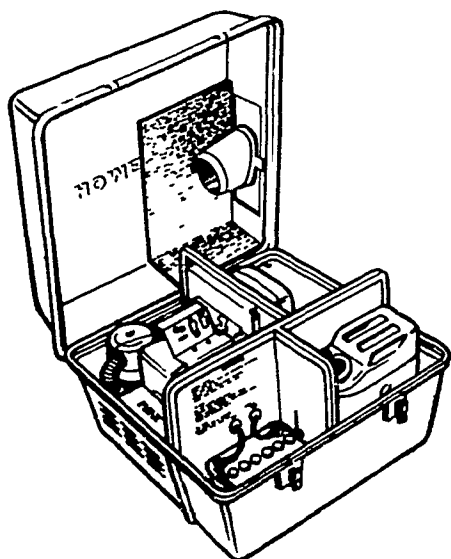
Exemptions are also available for 4-H youth who have completed specific training requirements, and for students who have completed certain units in the Vocational Agriculture Training Program.

The Delaware Extension Service is offering free training programs in tractor and farm machinery safety. These will be similar to correspondence courses, with formal classes interspersed throughout the eight-week program. The deadline for registration is January 30.

For further information contact county extension agents or 4-H youth agents in New Castle, Kent, or Sussex counties, or Ron Jester at the University of Delaware Substation in Georgetown.

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