

# Hunters tag 921 bears

COUDERSPORT — Wildlife conservation officers at check stations tagged 921 bears that were taken by hunters during Pennsylvania's one-day season in 1980, the final compilation by the Game Commission shows.

The figure for the November 24 season is surpassed by the one bears that were harvested by hunters in the Keystone State in the 1924 season. However, the 1924 season opened on November 1 and closed on December 15.

In 1979, Pennsylvania hunters tagged 736 bears over the age of one year, while an undetermined number of bruins which were less than a year old were also taken.

Although the number of bears taken during the two most recent seasons may seem at first glance to be rather high, it must be remembered that there was no open season for bears in the state in 1977 and 1978.

Pennsylvania was one of the first states in the nation to protect black bears, initially imposing restrictions on harvests in 1905.

Over the years, harvests of bruins had generally been high every other year. This was believed to have been because females ordinarily give birth to cubs only every other year. But in 1966 and 1967 hunters harvested 605 and 568 bears, respectively.

This was followed by several years of comparatively low harvests, only 218 and 295 bears. When it appeared that the total population had declined, the season was closed in 1970.

In 1971, during a two-day season, the population was reduced by 488 animals. Since 1972, one-day seasons have been used when

seasons have been opened for hunting.

Lower harvests were recorded from 1972 through 1975, but after the high harvest of 605 in 1976, the Game Commission closed the season for several years to permit the population to rebuild.

As a result of the changes in harvests, season lengths and closures, the cycle of high harvests every other year appears to have been broken.

The most productive counties for bear hunters in 1980 were Clinton, 85; Tioga, 81; Elk, 77; McKean, 76; Lycoming, 74; Pike, 66; and Clearfield, 65.

Hunters removed only 16 percent of the previously-marked bears in the Northeast Division, but 25 percent in the Northcentral Division, 11 percent in the Northwest Division, and 25 percent in the Southcentral Division. Statewide, the removal rate of previously-identified bears was 20 percent. To maintain a stable bear population, hunters need to remove 20 to 25 percent of the bruins annually.

In 1979, the removal rate of previously-marked bears was 22 percent. In the 1976 season, 33 percent of the previously-identified bears were taken by hunters.

The decline in the removal rate of bears indicates that the number of bears is not declining on a statewide basis, and, in fact, may be increasing slightly.

However, regional and county removal rates of previously-marked bears tell a somewhat different story and are requiring wildlife managers to take another look at bear management options. The number of bears seems to be

stable in the northcentral part of the state as a whole.

However, high removal rates in some counties lead wildlife managers to believe bear numbers in certain important areas are declining.

On the other hand, the low removal rates of bears in northeastern counties in general, and the Poconos in particular, indicate that bears in that part of the state are on the increase, and there soon will be major problems in terms of

nuisance and garbage bears, damages to bees and bee-keeping equipment, etc.

The Game Commission is hopeful that the Legislature this year will create a bear hunting license which would enable the agency to control numbers and locations of hunters and size of harvests, as well as populations. This would help reduce the number of problems and level out some of the highs and lows in bear production and mortality.

An analysis of the 1980 harvest shows that more than 62 percent of the bears were taken between 7 and 10 30 a.m.

More than 400 bears were between 100 and 200 pounds in weight. Fourteen bears weighed between 400 and 450 pounds, and two bears weighed over 525 pounds.

Bruins were taken in all 29 counties open to bear hunting. The sex ratio in the 1980 harvest was about equal, there were 453 males and 468 females taken.

## Spinner spreader announced

### Business News

COLDWATER, Oh — A new tractor-mounted spinner spreader from Avco New Idea, the Model 107, has a stainless steel hopper with a 10.5 cu. ft. capacity.

The hopper can hold 690 pounds of fertilizer or 80 bushels of seed and features a base of cast iron for durability against abrasive fertilizer. The spinner and shutter are stainless steel.

The Model 107 spreads up to 32.8 feet and has 10 shutter settings. A material agitator helps insure uniform feeding of materials.

Two new 800 series power units have been added to the Uni System line by Avco New Idea. The Model 800 is rated at 138 horsepower and the Model 802 at 175 horsepower. Both have a new electronic tachometer and additional work and headlights.

Another new production introduction is a wider pair of 9.5-

foot rakes. The baskets on the Model 406, left hand version, and the Model 407, right hand version, are suspended to reduce bounce. They feature sealed bar bearings.

#### LABEL CHANGES

Several label changes have been approved for Temk 15G aldicarb pesticide, according to Union Carbide.

Federal registration has lowered the recommended rate for control of the soybean cyst nematode to 10 to 20 pounds per acre from the previous 14 to 20 pounds. Band width requirements have been reduced to six to eight inches from the previous 8 to 12 inches.

#### DIRECTORS NAMED

Two worldwide marketing positions have been announced by the Hesston Corporation. James D. Gaeddert has been named director of sales and Frank I. Chandler has been named director of product management.

#### DEALER HONORED

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gundrum, of the Walker Company, Gap, were among nearly 110 Wayne Feed dealers who were honored at Allied Mills 1981 President's Marketing Council business seminar. They received a plaque for outstanding marketing services during the past year.

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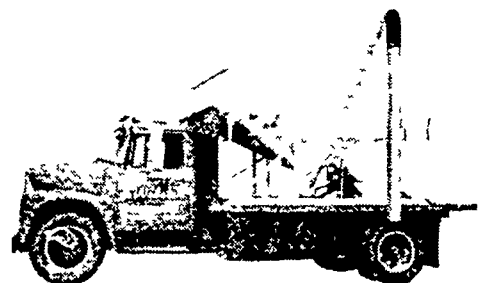
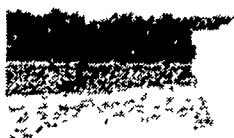
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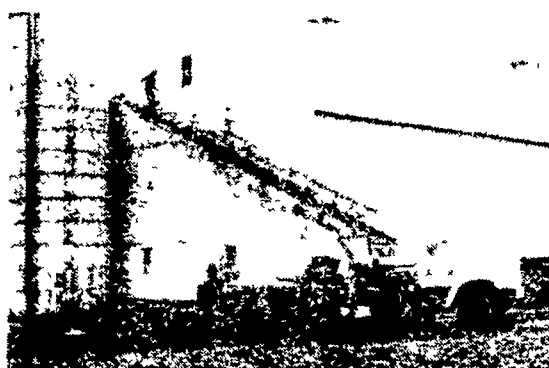
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