



Dominic and Erika Fornicola show their halter broken hogs at the Susquehanna County 4-H Roundup.

It's easy to take this piggy to market

MONTROSE — The introduction of a hog halter class at the 1981 Harford Fair came about through an accident at the Larry Fornicola Farm. It all happened one afternoon when they had a difficult time loading hogs.

The Fornicolas attempted to put a rope around the neck of a hog and lead the hog up the ramp. Upon failing the maneuver, they tried a strap around the hogs chest in conjunction with a lead. This maneuver worked.

It was then that the idea of a hog halter class first occurred to them.

At the next meeting of the Baconers Club of Susquehanna County, Fornicola suggested his family's idea to the club. The majority of the members were skeptical, retorting that it would be impossible to control a 180 lb. hog with just a rope.

The disbelievers were proved wrong at the 1981 Harford Fair when Jim Pearson, Erika Fornicola and Nick Fornicola succeeded in exhibiting three hogs walking peacefully on halters.

Nick and Erika explained how they had trained their hogs. The two started more than two months before the fair, and experimented with three different types of halters before deciding upon the most suitable type.

First they tried a collar, similar to the dog and small animal type, second a strap around the belly of the hog, and third a combination of the two connected at the back. The combination of the two proved best, because it gave the showman the most control over the hog.

When training their hogs, the Fornicolas used the reward system. In effect, they would lead their hogs to water than back to feed. Nick and Erika claimed that training went smoother if they allowed their hogs a certain amount of freedom to begin, and gradually worked toward showman control of the animal. The animals walked better when they were trained together.

Jim Pearson created his own halter, and it was very similar to that of the Fornicola's halters.

Seaweed farming

(Continued from Page B12)

and finding new uses for seaweed substances.

Along the New England coast, for example, scientists like Philip Sze are trying to monitor the

factors controlling seaweed growth. With support from the National Geographic Society, Sze of Georgetown University is back in Maine this summer studying seaweed in tidepools.

Among the new and more serious problems that scientists hope seaweed can tackle are two of America's biggest: cancer and energy. Some species are being tested for possible treatment of digestive tract cancer. Decaying seaweeds can produce methane gas, perhaps someday enough to heat homes.

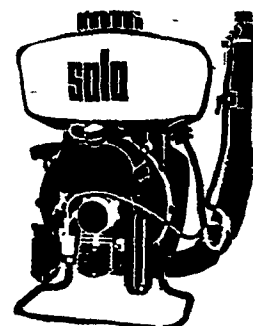
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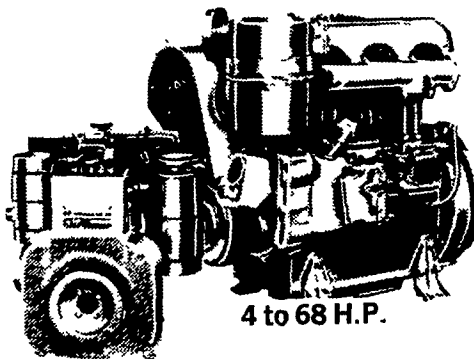
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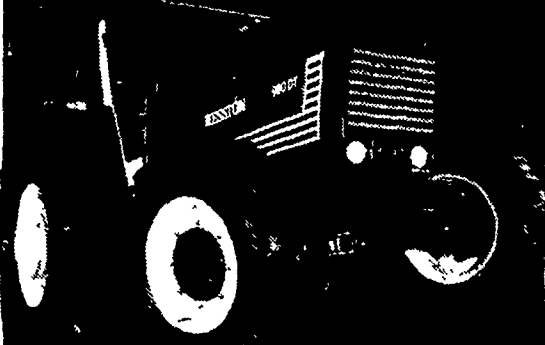
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