

Now is the Time

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and filled with the proper chemical.

To Mulch Strawberries

Winter injury has been a problem in strawberries for a number of years. Crown injury can be reduced by applying mulch to protect them for the winter.

The best time for application is from mid-November to mid-December. The exact date depends on weather conditions. But a good rule of thumb is to apply mulch when the temperature begins to stay around 20 to 25 degrees. If it drops to 15 degrees or lower, unprotected strawberry crowns would be injured.

In any case, it's a good idea to mulch the plants after they've been exposed to a few good freezes. Mulching is a very good practice to insure a better crop next summer.

To Adopt Winter Driving Habits

The hazards of winter driving are many, and drivers should change their habits when roads become icy or snow covered. Speed should be reduced and more time allowed for braking the car or truck.

Winter tires should be mounted soon to give extra protection. Batteries should also be checked and kept in top condition. Be aware that cold weather puts extra stress on all parts of the car. Always be alert to recognize road conditions and drive accordingly.

USDA forecasts changes in grain trade

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Forecasts of tight grain supplies, high and widely fluctuating grain prices, and changes in market behavior in the eighties, if realized, could force adjustments in the exporting policies of the United States and other major grain exporters (Canada, Australia, and Argentina):

Domestic pressures for the United States to insulate, at least partially, its internal grain price from the world price will increase.

Grain exporters may be induced to cooperate more than they have in the past in their international and domestic agricultural policies, although the likelihood of their forming a cartel (like OPEC) is slight.

The Canadian and Australian marketing boards may see attractions in varying their traditional policies on marketing and stockholding.

Both exporters and importers may seek long-term contracts as

the former seek to guarantee market access and the latter to assure sufficient grain supplies to improve national diets.

Those conclusions are based on the USDA Economic Research Service report's assumption that the policies of the grain-trading countries will be predicated on political and short-term self-interest rather than on global concerns. The report outlines some likely courses of action by both exporters and importers in response to the current and forecast market conditions.

The forecasts that have been made of tight supplies and high prices contrast with the surpluses and depressed prices of the sixties and early seventies. Current trends suggest the world may be becoming more dependent on grain imports just when supplies will be more variable, when output may respond more slowly to increases in demand, and when additional supplies could be more costly to obtain.

The shift in the market is due chiefly to a surge in demand for grain over the last two decades, led by the communist countries and the developing countries. The producing countries initially handled the rise in demand by drawing down stocks and by expanding grain production onto land that had been set-aside or idled by government programs, especially in the United States.

By 1980, however, stocks were reduced and much of this land was again in production; further expansion is now limited either to less productive land or to land that would have to be diverted from other crops. Although technology and yields will probably continue to improve, an increase in prices

relative to costs will be required to sustain an upward trend in output.

Such a tight supply situation will not materialize in every year of the coming decade; grain availability will depend greatly on weather and crop yields and surpluses may well appear from time to time.

Clearly, lower stocks on average and a reduced capacity for an expansion in output will magnify the impact of widespread droughts on the market, resulting in greater instability in prices.

Most of the response to the more widely fluctuating prices will be borne by a constantly shrinking free market, which includes the domestic U.S. Market. The free market is likely to continue to shrink because of increasing domination of the market by state trading organizations and bilateral contracts, the chief concern of both being to obtain specific quantities of grain with relatively little regard to price. This segment of the market, therefore, is fairly inflexible in its response to price.

The United States, Canada, and Australia will find it increasingly difficult to achieve their policy objectives without some changes in both their domestic and international marketing arrangements.

Farm Calendar

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Friday, Nov. 20	Quakertown Fire House.
Berks County Holstein Club annual meeting, 7 p.m., Fleetwood Grange.	Montgomery County DHIA annual meeting, 6:45 p.m., Christopher Dock School.
Saturday, Nov. 21	Lancaster County Farmers Association farm tours, 1-5 p.m.
Hunterdon County, N.J. annual Board of Ag meeting, 7 p.m.,	Continues Sunday.

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

No trespassing

Your editorial, "What's it worth to hunt?" (October 24, issue) was most interesting.

In Delaware, according to the Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide, "It is unlawful to trespass without prior permission of the landowner with gun or dog." I gather from your editorial that this

is not the case in Pennsylvania.

In Delaware the onus is on the hunter. The landowner is not required to put up signs if he allows no hunting.

Sincerely
Ruth T. Kranz
(Mrs. William Kranz)



Horn of Plenty T.M.

Finger Tip Feed Control



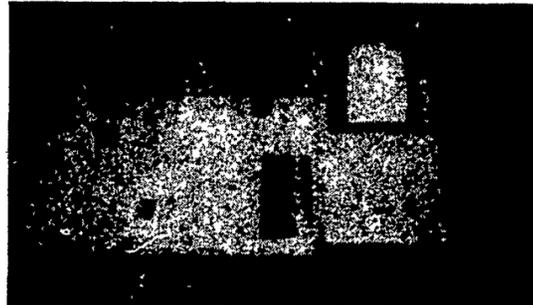
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