

Now is the Time

(Continued from Page A10)

areas have sufficient natural alkalinity to cause a "breakdown" of certain pesticides.

This means pest control may be somewhat less than desirable, or even nonexistent because the ingredient will be rendered inactive before it even reaches the plant and pest. If the spray is allowed to stand several hours before spraying, as much as 50

percent or more of the active ingredient may be decomposed.

Our Extension pesticide specialist, Dr. Win Hock, tells us that a pH in the range of 4 to 6 is recommended for most pesticide sprays. You can adjust spray solutions to this range by buffering agents on the market. In general, the insecticides are affected more severely by alkaline water than fungicides or herbicides.

To Consider Top Dressing Wheat

At this time, we are not certain how our wheat crop will survive the winter elements because we still have March to contend with. And March, with its freezing and thawing conditions is one of the hardest months on wheat.

In any event, topdressing wheat with nitrogen will generally result in an extra 10 to 12 bushels per acre. This can result in extra profit to the grower.

The ideal time to topdress wheat is just when it begins to "green-up" in the spring. This will generally occur in the middle to latter part of March. However, wheat can be successfully topdressed earlier in March when the ground is "honeycombed". Be cautious of highly fertile land that has received a lot of manure in the past. This kind of land does not need additional nitrogen.

Most wheat varieties can use between 40 and 50 pounds per acre of nitrogen. There are few

activities around the farm that can return more profit, with less input, than topdressing wheat with nitrogen.

To Use Caution With Nylon Ropes

Our safety engineers at Penn State, report that nylon ropes are becoming very popular around the farm for towing purposes. They are light in weight and very strong.

However, they have the property of stretching under a pull, similar to a spring. The recoil provides extra pull to dislodge a vehicle or a stationary object. This recoil can cause a serious accident if you're not extremely careful.

There should not be a clevis, shackle or chain on the end of the rope. Hook only to hitch points that

are very sturdy. Keep bystanders at a safe distance when making a heavy pull with a nylon tow rope.

You may recall, several years ago a group of picnickers were having a tug-of-war with a nylon rope. The rope broke and the recoil injured several people. They're good but use caution when using them.



Farm Calendar



Monday, March 1

Lancaster County Dairy Days, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center. Continues tomorrow.

Cambria County Crops Day, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., United Methodist Church, Ebensburg.

Octorara Young Farmers annual banquet, 6:45 p.m., Cochranville Fire Hall.

Pa. Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. Continues through Thursday.

Tuesday, March 2

Swine management conference, J.O. Keller Bldg., Penn State, continues through Thursday.

Tri-County sheep meeting, 8 p.m., Hunterdon Extension Center, Flemington, N.J.

Montour County Extension Milkers School, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Holiday Inn, Danville, continues tomorrow.

Bradford County Milkers School, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Wysox Presbyterian Church, continues Wednesday.

Cumberland County Dairy Clinic, 9 a.m., Embers Restaurant, Carlisle.

New Castle County DHIA annual meeting, Glass Kitchen, Glasgow, Del.

Wayne County Sheep & Wool Growers Assn., 7:45 p.m., Pleasant Valley Grange.

Spring Forum, N.J. Holstein Assn., 9:30 a.m., Andover Firehouse.

Wednesday, March 3

Eastern Shore Dairy Herdsmen Workshop, Chestertown.

Lancaster Conservation District meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm & Home Center.

Home vegetable gardening, Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

31st annual Potato Growers Institute, Toftrees Country Club, State College, continues tomorrow.

Thursday, March 4

Tri-Valley Crops Meeting, 10 a.m.-3:15 p.m., Upper Dauphin High School.

Tree Fruit Growers meeting, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Poultry Educational Meeting, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Berks DHIA district meeting, Ag Center.

Solanco Young Farmers banquet, 7 p.m., Memorial United Methodist Church.

Northeast Pa. Corn Clinic, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Penn State Scranton campus, Dunmore.

Adams County Ag Council, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Ag Center, Gettysburg.

Dairy Replacement Heifer Seminar, 9:15 a.m., Mountain View Inn, Greensburg.

Central Maryland Guernsey Breeders meeting, 7:30 p.m., Harvey Fire Hall.

Friday, March 5

Pa. Beef Cattle Conference, Penn State Meats Lab, continues tomorrow.

Pa. Cattlemen's Assn. annual banquet, 7 p.m., Gatsby's, State College.

Twin Valley FFA Banquet, 7 p.m., High School cafeteria.

Saturday, March 6

Elizabethtown Young Farmers Banquet, 6:45 p.m., Hostetter's Dining Hall.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

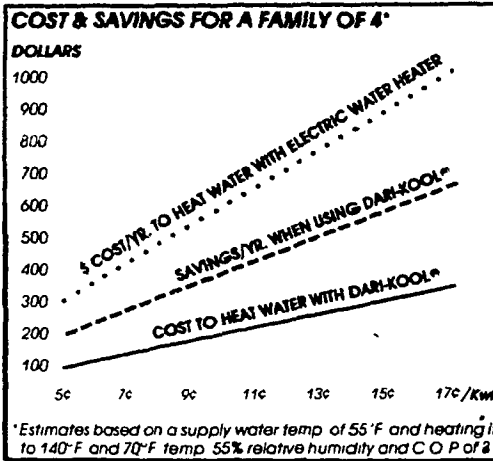
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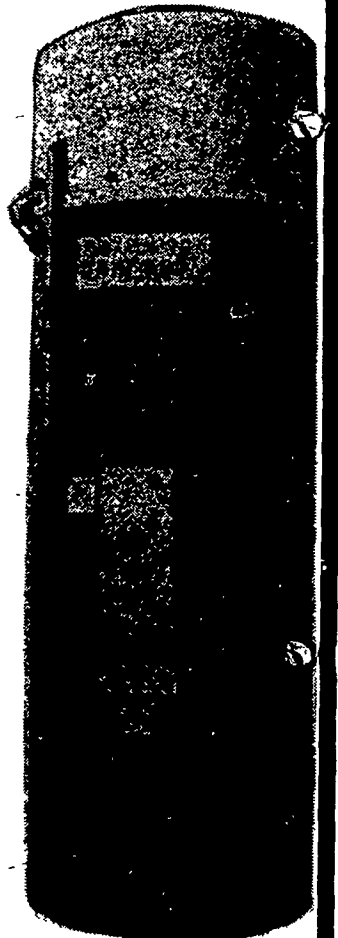
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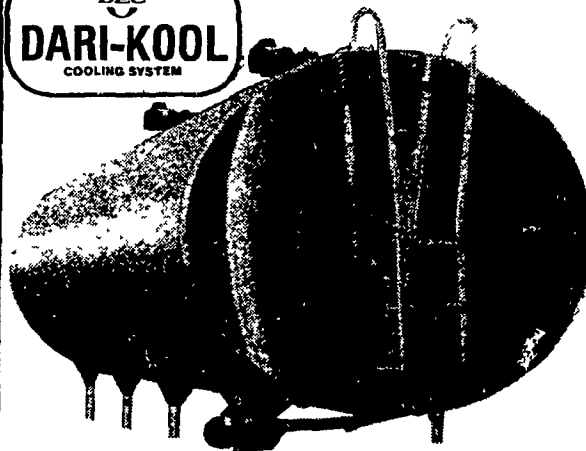
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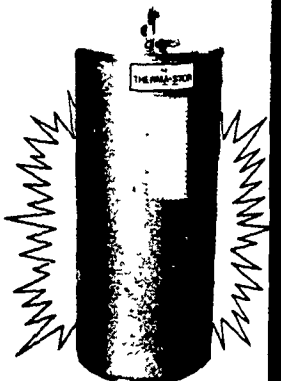


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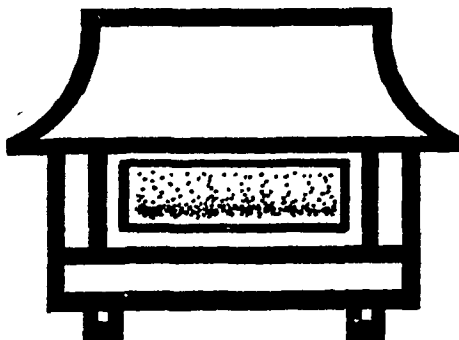
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