

## Farmers suffer more hearing damage

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Farmers have twice the high frequency hearing test failures of non-farmers.

That's because they've had years of exposure to noisy farm equipment, said Dr. James Thelin, chief of audiology at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine.

Dr. Thelin recently compared hearing losses of 250 Missouri farmers to a similar group of non-farmers found to have average hearing.

"Farmers with high-frequency hearing loss have good hearing at low frequencies and can detect speech, but they may not understand it," he said. "They always miss high frequency sounds, the same sounds normal hearing people would miss if someone spoke to them through a hand held over the mouth."

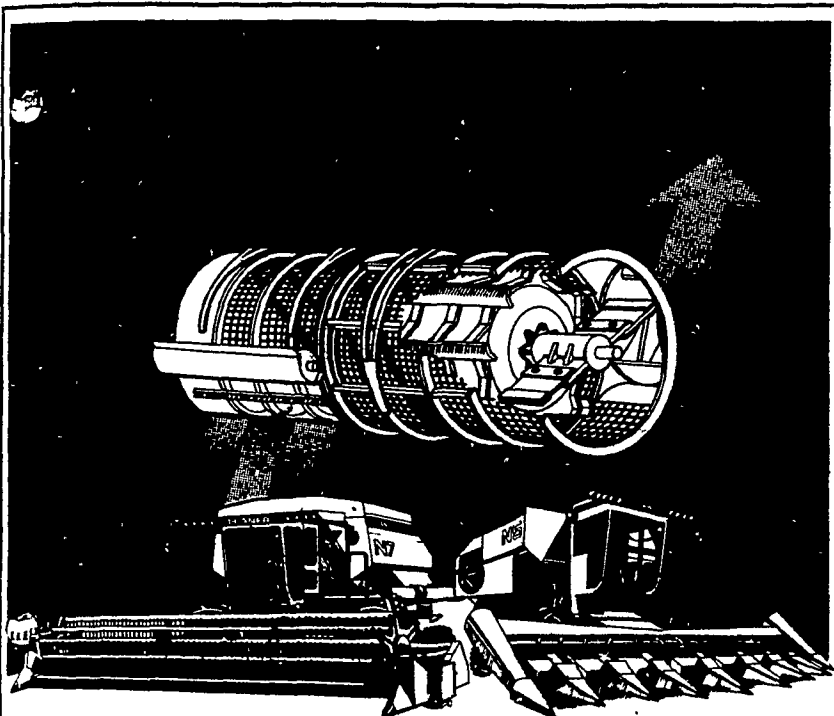
At moderate and high frequencies, 17 percent of farmers compared to eight percent of non-farmers failed the hearing test in

both ears.

High-frequency hearing loss first appeared in 20-29 year-old farmers and was ten years advanced over non-farmers in each decade thereafter. Accumulated hearing loss was greatest for 60 to 69 year-olds. By then, the decade by decade loss touched 68 percent of the farmers compared with 44 percent of non-farmers.

People who lose high frequency hearing first notice they no longer hear women's and children's voices well. So they suffer "communication dilemmas" in business and social gatherings, Dr. Thelin said. It is impossible for them to pull a particular voice out of background noise and listen to it and it alone.

Information on agricultural noise levels and prevention of high-frequency hearing loss is available in "Noise—The Invisible Hazard," a University of Missouri-Columbia Extension publication available from Extension centers throughout the state.



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## Godshall shows top capon

MOUNT JOY — A capon auction was held at the Mount Joy Rotary Club's meeting last week. Members of the 4-H Capon Club, which is part of the Elizabethtown-Donegal 4-H Community Club, presented the dressed birds for judging and auctioning.

Steve Godshall, son of Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Godshall, 120 Heisey Ave., Rheems, received the grand champion ribbon. He scored 19 points out of a possible 20 in the judging.

Doug Musser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Musser, R3 Elizabethtown, was the reserve champion. He scored 18 3/4 points out of a possible 20. Herb Jordan of Penn State University judged the capons.

Godshall's capon, which weighed 10 1/8 pounds, was purchased by Dan Gohn, president of the Rotary Club, for \$6 a pound.

Musser's capon, which weighed 10 3/4 pounds, was purchased by Jim Rutt, vice-president of the

club, for \$3.50 a pound.

Another of Godshall's capons was sold to Lloyd Heisey for \$3.25 a pound and another of Musser's was sold to Jim Rutt for \$2.75 a pound.

Other members of the club are Jane and Billy Endslo, children of Mr. and Mrs. William Endslo; Randy and Rick Hollinger, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hollinger, R3 Elizabethtown; Tony Spickler, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Spickler, R1 Mount Joy; Greg Musser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Musser, R3 Elizabethtown. Harold Musser is the leader of the Capon Club.

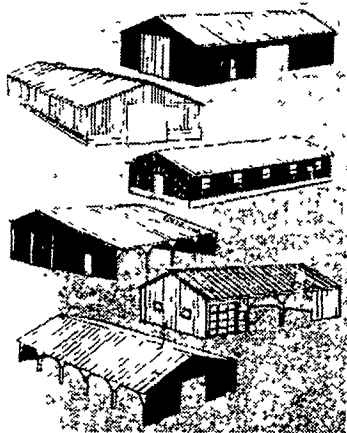
Jane Endslo's capon was sold to Abe Groff for \$3.25 a pound; Billy Endslo's to Vince O'Conner for \$2.25 a pound; Greg Musser's to Jim Heilig for \$2.80 a pound; Randy Hollinger's to Elvin Yeagley for \$2.50 a pound, and Rick Hollinger's to Bill Reuter for \$2.50 a pound.

Mount Joy Rotarian Harold Keller was the auctioneer for the sale.

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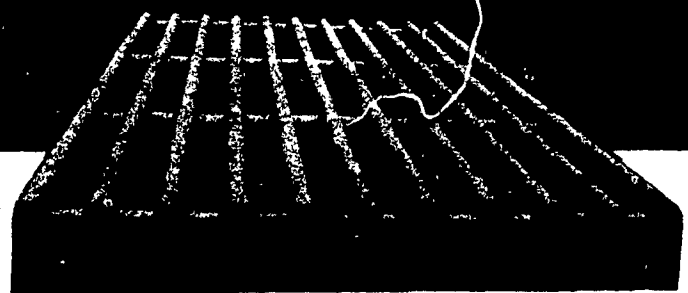
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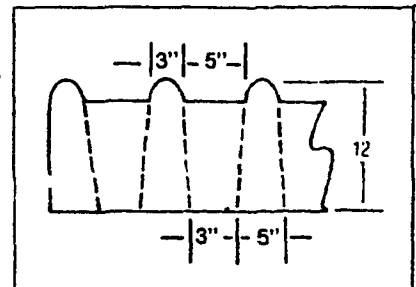
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