

Outdoor fire season is here

LANCASTER — Each spring, rural areas are plagued by numerous woods, brush and field fires.

For example, in Lancaster County alone, fire departments received nearly 500 such calls a year. Of that number, just about half are caused by open or illegal burning.

Fire officials urge anyone who burns debris to first check with

their local fire department, forest fire warden or government official. Many municipalities have ordinances forbidding open burning or regulate it by allowing burning only during specified hours. Illegal burning in a municipality with an ordinance may result in a fine.

If debris must be burned, do it safely. Use an incinerator or metal

barrel in good condition. The opening should be covered with a heavy screen mesh using not less than 14-gauge wire. Draft holes can be punched near the bottom of the barrel to aid the combustion process. The barrel should be placed away from overhead branches and wires in the middle of an area which has been cleared at least five feet in all directions.

If burning a pile of brush in a field, plow an adequate fire line around it.

Burning should not be done on dry, windy days. Sparks and embers can be carried a considerable distance causing a fire. The safest time to burn is late in the afternoon.

Never leave the fire unattended. Tools such as rakes and shovels should be close at hand. Buckets of water or a garden hose should also be in the immediate area.

Any aerosol cans mixed in with the debris to be burned should be removed. Flying metal from an

exploding can injure a bystander. Burning trash ejected by such an explosion may cause another fire.

If walking through the woods this time of year, use extreme caution with smoking materials and matches. Clear a spot down to bare earth for used matches and butts. Then use the heel of your foot to grind it into the ground.

Remember, if burning debris causes a fire, there can be liability for costs of firefighting and damage to others.

Northampton sets Holstein tour

NAZABETH — The annual Northampton County Holstein Club bus tour will be held on Thursday, March 31.

The tour will begin at 7:30 a.m. from the parking lot of the Laneco store in Nazareth and will visit four dairy farms in Perry County.

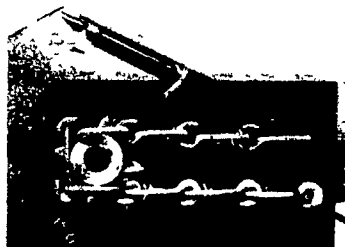
The cost is \$14.00 for the trip and a meal. The meal will consist of

supper at the Shartlesville Hotel and is "Pennsylvania Dutch Style."

Reservations may be made by calling Bob Letson, Special Activities Chairman at (215) 252-0074; Bruce Fox at (215) 588-8340 or the Extension Office at (215) 759-6120-H.S.

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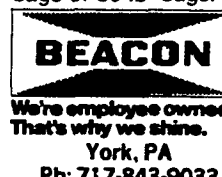
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