

First shells of summer

Summer is nearly here, and with its arrival, another opportunity to collect seashells. As many crafters already know, seashells are ideal craft materials.

Many seashell projects require very few shells. Jewelry, belt buckles, tiny boxes, and the hair comb shown here require so few shells, you can make the projects after only one day's shell collecting.

When summer ends and your collection has grown, you can make picture frames, jewelry boxes, collages and other beautiful shell-craft projects.

The hair comb is an ideal project for now. Aside from the few tiny shells it needs, when the comb is finished, you can sweep your hair up and stay cool on the hotter days ahead.

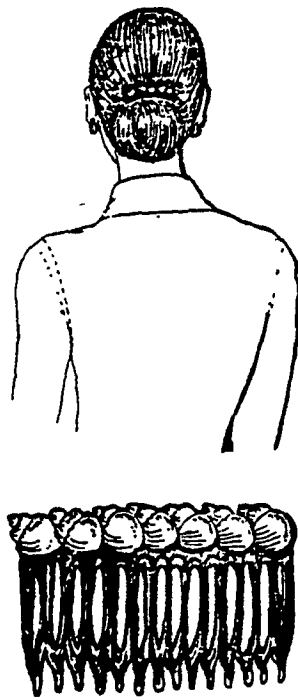
Here are directions for cleaning shells and making the comb:

MATERIALS: Small, curved comb with no decoration, Several tiny seashells; white glue; masking tape; baby oil; soap; soft cloth; scrub brush.

CLEANING THE SHELLS: 1. Wash shells with warm water, soap and scrub brush. 2. Rinse and dry shells. 3. Rub baby oil into

shells to increase their luster. 4. Buff shells with a soft cloth.

DIRECTIONS: 1. Arrange shells on the comb in straight lines, circles or other patterns as desired. 2. Glue shells to comb on at a time. 3. If any shells don't stay where you want them: Glue them down; then tape down with masking tape. Remove tape when glue dries. 4. Fill in spaces as desired with more shells.



Egg industry buys time

DECATUR, Ga. — UEP President Al Pope stated that, in his opinion, "combining the success of the Industry Task Force, chaired by Ed Houston, with the attention and responsiveness of USDA, averted a financial disaster in the egg industry." He went on to say that "without the USDA commodity purchase program (egg mix and boned fowl), egg values today could be as much as 15 cents to 20 cents a dozen lower than present levels."

The purchase program came as a result of the UEP-initiated Industry Task Force working with top officials which included Secretary Block, Deputy Secretary Richard Lyng, Bill McMillan, Dawson Ahalt, Leo Mayer and others. The commodity purchase program, under the USDA administration of Connor Kennett, has announced purchases of egg mix which require nearly 600,000 cases of eggs for the June-July period alone.

"In February and March, all the signs pointed to disaster — loss of egg export sales, increased bird productivity, poor retail demand, to mention a few," state Pope. "Then along came the grain PIK program, adding as much as 7


cents per dozen to our cost of production. This was coupled with an after-Easter period, traditionally our least likely, nearly impossible time to recover the increased costs. All we could see was one enormous crunch on producers, many of whom were already operating at a negative net worth (estimated to be as high as 25% of total egg industry)."

Pope warned, however, that "while the Task Force Committee was highly successful, what they did was buy time to allow individual producers to adjust supplies. The major burden of assuming the responsibility for making that adjustment is now on the industry."

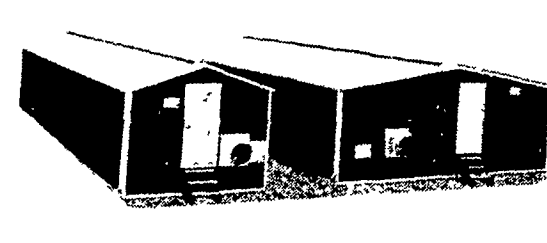
"We are indebted to the Task Force members and USDA for being responsive, sensitive, and for moving in such haste on what could have meant economic bankruptcy for the egg sector of agriculture," Pope said.

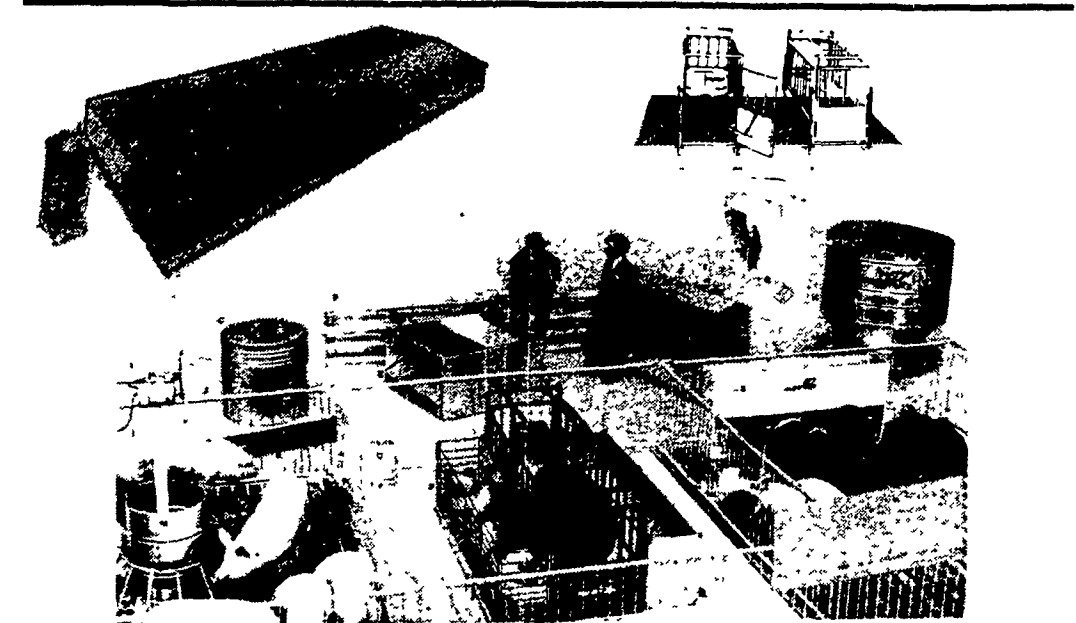
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