

Myerstown 4-H'er to lead state event

MYERSTOWN — Dan Shiner, Myerstown, was selected to lead activities at the 1984 Pennsylvania 4-H Leadership Congress during the 1983 Congress held recently at Penn State.

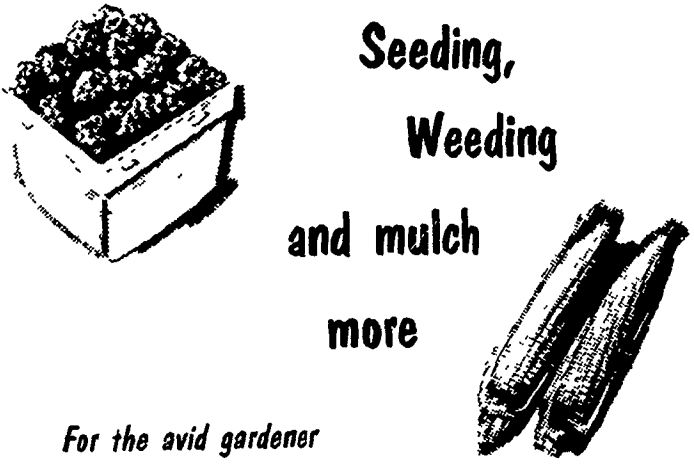
Dan, a son of Dan and Gail Shiner, will return to advise the

Day Camping Leadership program. The Day Camping program is designed to teach teens how to plan and carry out day camp activities in their home counties.

Dan was selected by this year's participants on the basis of his leadership skills.

In 4-H, Dan has also participated in State 4-H Days, National 4-H Conference, Citizenship-Washington Focus, Lebanon Area Fair, camp counseling, and Teen Council.

He will be a senior at Elco this fall.



**Seeding,
Weeding
and mulch
more**

For the avid gardener

Mulching makes good sense

One of the backbreaking jobs in having a home vegetable garden is keeping the weeds under control. So why not get smart and use a mulch?

"The big advantages to mulch are that it would keep soil temperatures cooler and be an aid in weed control," said Arnold Lueck, Lancaster County's Extension agronomist. "It also improves the appearance."

According to Lueck, there is a wide variety of mulches available, and many of them are easy to come by.

Straw, old hay, weathered manure or any kind of plant residue can be used. Sawdust can also be used for plants such as blueberries which need a lot of acid in the soil. Sawdust, however, should not be used in vegetable or flower gardens.

A wide variety of peat moss is also recommended, as are the many different kinds of bark mulch. Licorice roots, salt hay, cocoa shells and buckwheat hulls may also be used.

In addition to these organic mulches, there are also inorganic mulches, including gravel,

limestone chips and stones. Artificial mulches, such as polyethelene, a black plastic, can be used. These are good for vine crops, such as peppers or tomatoes.

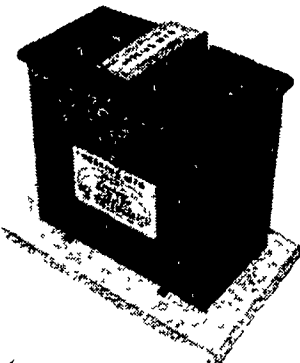
Although there are many benefits to using mulch, there are also some drawbacks. According to Lueck, this spring was a classic case of when mulch can have some disadvantages.

"We had a very wet, cool spring," Lueck explained. "The mulching materials attracted slugs, sowbugs and pillbugs. The slugs fed heavily on a lot of vegetation. They were attracted by a combination of mulch and wet weather."

Slugs, however, can be controlled by chemical baits. Some home gardeners claim that a shallow pie pan filled with beer will also do the trick. The slugs crawl up the side of the pan, fall into the beer and die happy.

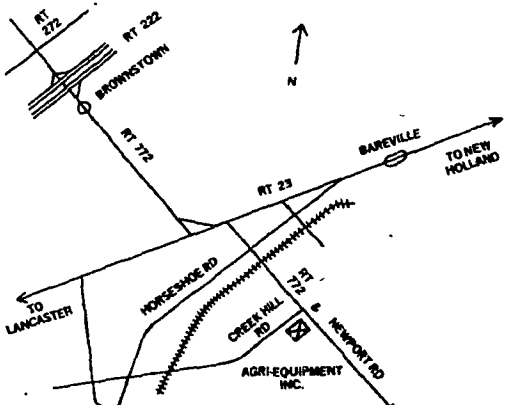
All in all, Lueck concluded that there were more advantages to disadvantages in mulching, and since July is the peak of the summer months, now is the time to do it.

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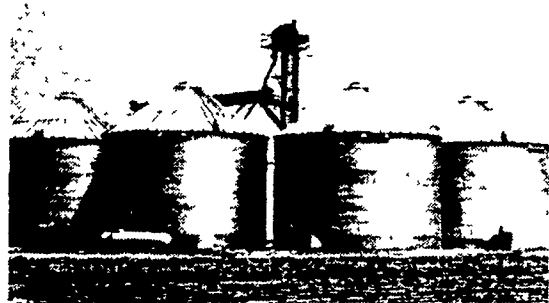
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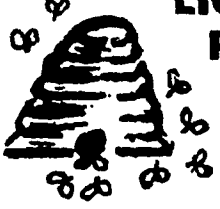
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