

Food Safety Poster Contest Opened

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is mailing teaching kits to elementary schools across the country this week to open the 1984 National Food Safety Poster Contest on "Summertime Food and Fitness."

The contest — an annual event since 1981 — is sponsored by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service to teach youngsters how to properly handle and prepare perishable foods, said Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

The teaching material uses a picnic theme to explain why people must be extra careful to adequately cook and refrigerate food during the hot summer months, when more cases of food poisoning occur. Some 300,000 children were affected by food poisoning illness last year alone.

The kits also emphasize physical fitness for youngsters — a tie-in to USDA's current Food and Fitness Campaign. Children, as well as adults, need to understand good health depends both on safe and wholesome food and on fit bodies, Block said.

"We are strongly committed to consumer education at USDA,"

said Block. "The children's poster contest is really just that — consumer education for the younger generation."

"USDA meat and poultry inspection assures that products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled when they reach the stores, but it's up to consumers to keep them that way," Block said. "The poster contest is an excellent vehicle for getting this kind of information to children. First they learn the basic rules of food safety. Then they must use those rules to design their posters."

USDA is sending kits to about 72,000 public and private grade schools for the 1984 contest, which runs through March 12. Winners will be announced in May.

First-place winners and their teachers will each win a \$200 U.S. savings bond, plus a trip to Washington, D.C., for the June awards ceremony. Parents of the winners also receive the trip. In addition, the winning children's schools will receive \$400 for library and audiovisual equipment.

Second-place winners and their teachers will win \$100 bonds. Third-place winners and their

teachers will win \$50 bonds.

Donors for this year's prizes are the National Broiler Council, the National Pork Producers Council,

the American Meat Institute and the National Meat Association.

Teachers or principals who have not received the teaching kit by the

end of December may request kits from: 1984 National Food Safety Poster Contest, P.O. Box 14313, Dayton, Ohio, 45414.

Del. nurserymen to meet

DOVER, Del. — The Delaware Association of Nurserymen will hold its annual winter meeting Thursday at the Sheraton Inn in Dover. The program will start at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:30. Registration is \$10, payable at the door. The event is being sponsored jointly by the association and the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service.

The morning session will feature talks on plant propagation, plantings for city streets (a report on the Newark beautification program), use of computers in the nursery business, and communication.

Following an awards luncheon, the afternoon program will begin at 1:45 with presentations on pruning evergreens, and landscape designs for southern Delaware.

From 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. a special session on pesticide use and applicator recertification will be presented. This part of the program will focus on pesticide safety and insecticides for nursery and landscape use. Individuals who attend this session will earn two recertification credits toward a restricted pesticide applicator's license for turf and ornamental horticulture.



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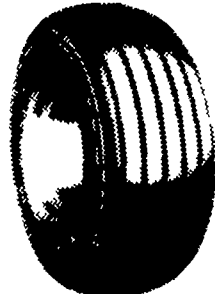
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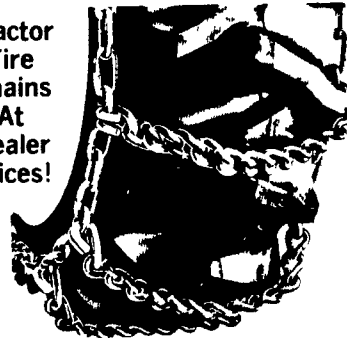
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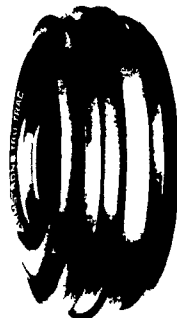
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