

4-H Leaders

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strations at a local department store during 4-H Week. Glenn Smoot, manager of recreation for the State of Delaware, joined his wife at the Northeast Regional 4-H Leaders' Forum in Fish and Wildlife. Since their return, they've organized fishing tournaments, a county conservation fun day, conservation assemblies at state 4-H camp, and a conservation training program for other 4-H leaders around the state.

Phalen, of Newark, is the leader of the Fantastics 4-H Club. Her strongest emphasis is in the area of community service. Phalen, and the Fantastics helped organize and continue to support the 4-H club for handicapped individuals at the Mary Campbell Center. They frequently visit nursing homes, hospitals, day-care centers and rehabilitation facilities. Several

members of the club, including Phalen's own daughter Ann, have gone on to careers in the medical and helping professions as a result of their 4-H experiences.

Hukill, Smoot, and Phalen are among the 4-H leaders from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico who were honored for their outstanding service to the nation's largest out-of-school youth organization. From among the county winners, one winner will be selected from each state to attend a national Salute To Excellence Leader Forum in Washington, D.C., from March 19 to 24. The forum will feature an intensive program of interpersonal and communication skills. Each leader who participates will be eligible for a \$1000 incentive grant, donated by R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. to be used to expand the role of volunteers in the state 4-H program.

MEDIA — What's the best growing medium for starting garden plants? That question is frequently asked by home gardeners. And there are several good suggestions. C.R. Bryan, Jr. Delaware County Extension service director, points out that the media you use for starting plants may range from a completely artificial material, such as vermiculite or perlite, to a field or garden soil. In most instances, ordinary topsoil from the field or garden is NOT suitable for starting plants. Such a soil often becomes hard, dries out rapidly, lacks good physical condition and may be either too rich, or not fertile enough.

A mixture of equal parts of soil, sand and peat or shredded manure is excellent for growing plants. Another good medium is a mixture

What's the Best Growing Medium for Plants?

of soil, peat and horticultural grade perlite

Large-seeded vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and cabbage can be grown to transplanting size in vermiculite alone. One word of caution in using this material, however - applications of liquid fertilizer are required. A soluble fertilizer such as 15-15-15 at the rate of one teaspoon full per gallon

of water may be used to water the plants once every 10 days.

Start tomatoes and peppers 6 to 8 weeks before they can be set in the garden. Cabbage is started 4 to 6 weeks prior to planting.

Before starting your plants, if you have some doubts regarding the best medium, contact your Extension Service.

Rabbit producers sought

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The search is on to find more meat-type rabbits to supply two Maryland-based processors who say they have such a demand now for their product that normal supply channels have been exhausted.

Supermarkets in the East are now carrying fresh rabbit on a regular basis and customers are clamoring for the product," says

Jack Frey, Marketing Specialist with the Maryland Department of Agriculture

Our processors have asked us to help in any way possible to secure additional producers and rabbits. In some cases, rabbits have been brought into Maryland from as far away as Arkansas to meet the ever increasing demand," Frey said

Anyone with rabbits to sell certainly has a market now in Maryland," he added

So urgent is the demand now that processors are eager to talk to anyone with rabbits no matter how few, or as many rabbits they might have

If you are interested in selling rabbits, or going into the rabbit raising business, you should contact Frey at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis. His telephone number is (301) 841-5770

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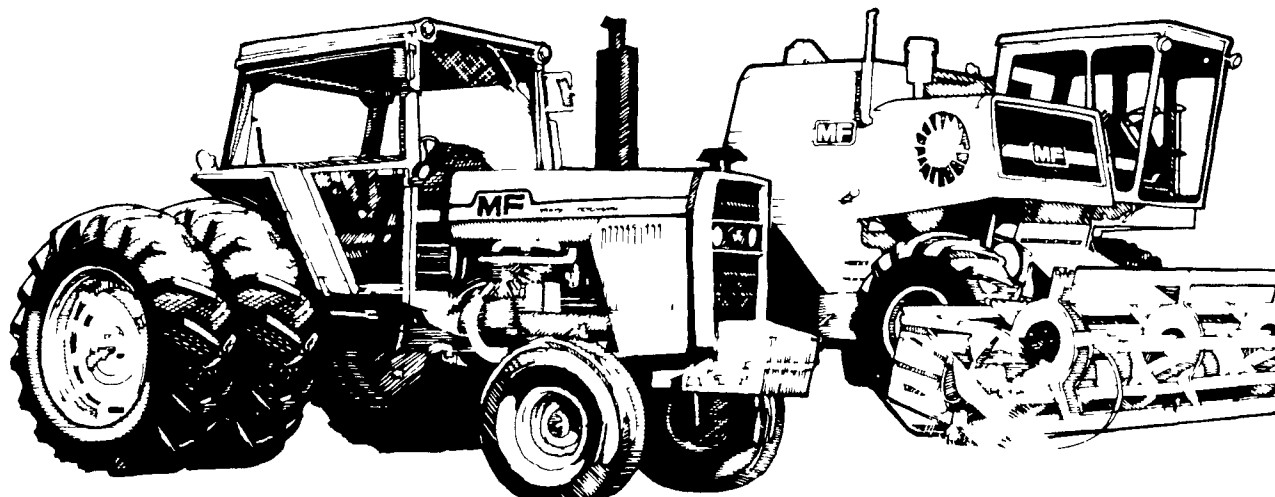
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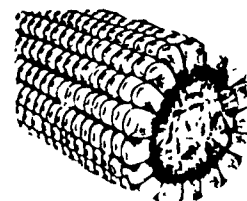
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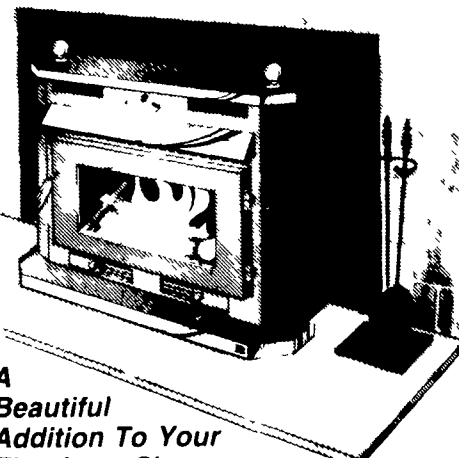
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