

Extension homemakers learn to use appliances wisely

BIGLERVILLE — Over 100 homemakers learned the importance of using appliances wisely to conserve energy as they convened for their annual Extension Homemakers Day last Thursday.

Diane V. Brown, regional program leader in family living for the Penn State Extension Service, told the group that there can be up to 75 percent difference in the amount of energy it takes to prepare the same meal, depending upon work habits, which appliances they use and how they use the appliances.

Brown told the group that small appliances can be hidden helpers, but some are very expensive. She pointed out that appliances use energy directly and indirectly since most of them are petroleum based and many are made of non-biodegradable materials. She challenged the women to think of

new ways of using old appliances to get the most mileage from them. Most small appliances are great energy savers because they are low wattage, usually have more direct contact with heating elements, have thermostatic controls and are solid state which means they are more energy efficient.

In a study of the use of appliances to prepare different food items, Brown pointed out that the toaster oven was consistently the most efficient energy user compared with a broiler, a convection oven, a microwave oven and a conventional oven.

The microwave was the next most efficient, but Brown said that the payoff in energy savings does not begin until you get your original investment out of it. In the case of a microwave oven, the payoff period will be 8 to 8½ years if you pay 8 cents per KWH and use

the appliance for the majority of the food preparation every day.

She noted that saving time is an important factor, but homemakers should be aware of the actual savings they may or may not receive with high ticket items.

One of the largest guzzlers of electricity in the home is the refrigerator which is 12-14 years old. A freezer can also be a guzzler, Brown maintained. She said the secret is planning, organizing and controlling the food put into and taken out of a refrigerator or freezer. She encouraged the use of an insulated drink container in the summer to give the children drinks.

Refrigerators have greatly increased in efficiency over the last few years, and the most efficient new refrigerator is one with the freezer on the bottom. Unfortunately, these models are difficult to find. Since the late



Diane Brown, left, and Peg Mearns spoke to over 100 homemakers at the annual Extension Homemakers Day last Thursday.

1970's Brown said refrigerators have improved in efficiency by 56 percent.

She added that a manual defrost is the most efficient followed by a partial defrost which will take 17 percent more energy and the automatic defrost which takes 45-50 percent more energy. Nevertheless, she added, "Our time is worth something."

Placement of appliances can also add to energy conservation. Refrigerators should not be placed next to ranges, nor in front of windows that get morning or afternoon sun. Air must be allowed to circulate around the refrigerator and coils should be cleaned once or twice a year, she said.

When using the range, choosing the right size burner will conserve energy, as well as putting a lid on pans and using pans with a heat conducting material. Shiny drip pans are also energy savers.

Self-cleaning and continuous clean ovens take more energy, but self-cleaning ovens are very well insulated, adding to their general efficiency, Brown noted. She also said that selecting a pilotless ignition on a gas range will save a lot of energy.

Convection ovens are becoming "hot news" in the consumer market, she said, adding that it combines the best of many worlds, using less wattage and lower degree temperatures.

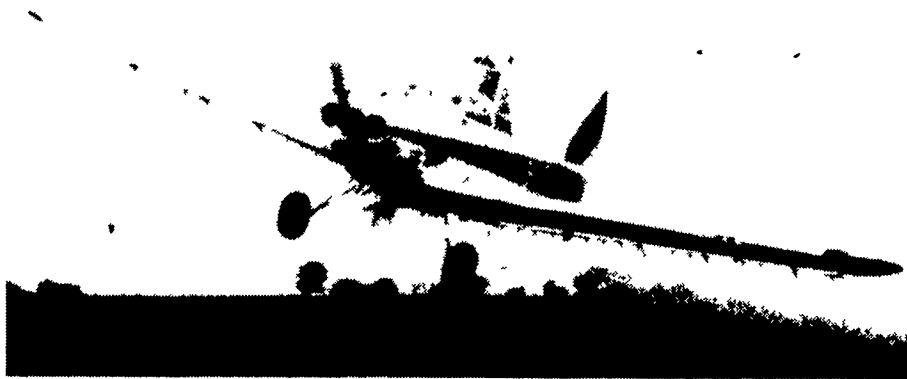
In the life cycle of an appliance Brown said the cost can be broken down with 58 percent of the total going for energy, 36 percent for the initial purchase price of the appliance and 6 percent for repairs.

Other speakers at the program included Peg Mearns, a retired extension home economist, and Sally B. Bair, homemaker and Lancaster Farming correspondent. Mearns has learned the intricacies of weaving since her retirement and operates a business from her home in Adams County. She told the women they should find work that is important to them and that will give them a sense of achievement and approval. When they take up a hobby or a craft she said they have a responsibility to make it as good as they can, and they should make sure there is the opportunity to learn something new or better as they achieve success.

Sally Bair encouraged the women to feel they can make the choice of staying in the home with their children. She said volunteer work can provide a stimulating outlet as well as provide skills which can be of use if a mother should need to find employment.

Many crafts were on display representing the programs which the various homemakers groups had held throughout the year.

MOORE AERIAL SPRAYING SERVICE

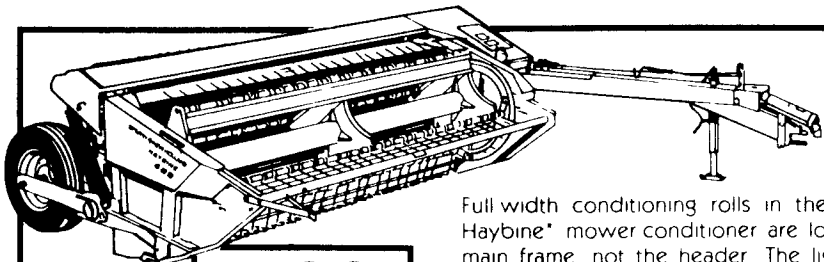


- Crop Spraying & Fertilizing
- Forest Spraying — Gypsy Moth Control
- Cover Crop Rye Seeding
- Reasonable Rates
- Low Acreage Minimums
- Aerial Photos Also Available

R.D.#1 Box 396B Winfield, PA. 17889

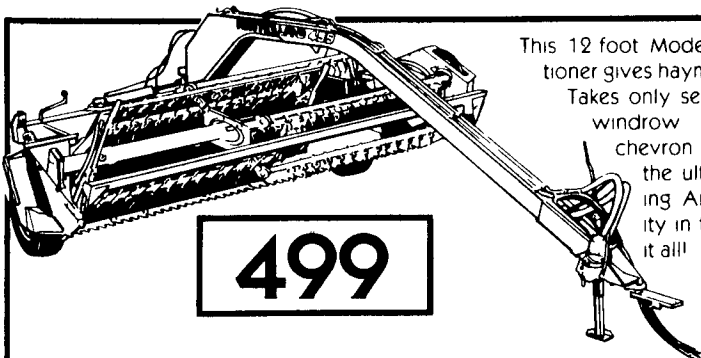
717-524-7151

Mower-Conditioners



489

Full width conditioning rolls in the Model 489 Haybine® mower conditioner are located in the main frame, not the header. The lighter header responds quicker to ground contours and greatly reduces knife and guard damage. The 489 is designed for operators who demand the very best.



499

This 12 foot Model 499 Haybine® mower conditioner gives haymakers all you've been asking for. Takes only seconds to switch from swath to windrow. Patented Rolareel header and chevron rubber conditioning rolls offer the ultimate in cutting and conditioning. And dual sickles assure top capacity in tough conditions. This one's got it all!

C.J. WONSIDLER BROS.



★ 3 LOCATIONS ★

Trumbauersville to Finland Rd., Quakertown, PA
(215) 536-1935 or 536-7523
Mon-Fri. 7:30 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Sat. 7:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

BRANCH

Rts 309 & 100 New Tripoli, PA
(215) 767-7611
Mon-Fri 7:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Sat. 7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

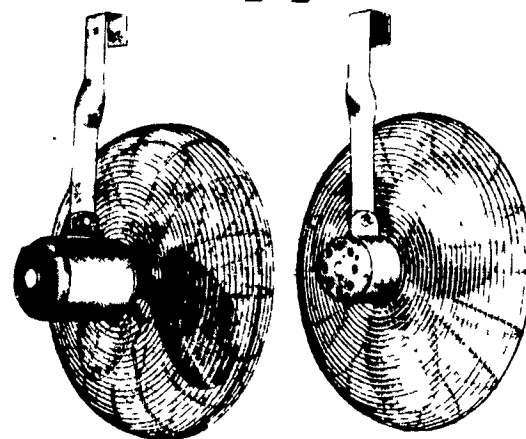
BRANCH

Lobachsville, Oley, PA
(215) 987-6221 or 987-6257
Mon-Fri 7:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Sat. 7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

TRI-CO SWINE NOW STOCKING VENTILATION FANS

\$99.00

SUSPENSION-MOUNT AIR CIRCULATORS



Guarding Complies With OSHA Regulations

SPLIT-PHASE & PSC TYPES

SHADED POLE TYPES

TRI-COUNTY SWINE SYSTEMS

608 E. EVERGREEN RD. LEBANON, PA 17042
(717) 274-3488
Hours Mon-Fri 7:00 to 4:30