

4-H Capon project popular

HONESDALE — The 4-H capon project continues to be a popular 4-H project in Wayne County.

This 4-H project is open to all young people in Wayne County with an interest in managing and caring for poultry. The 4-H member must be between the ages of 8 and 19 and be a member of 4-H agricultural or community club.

The 4-H capon project will start in early June when the 4-H member takes delivery of the day-old cockerel chicks. The 4-H member can order any amount of chicks, but thirty five is the "suggested" number for a 4-H member's capon project.

The chicks will be caponized about three weeks after they have been delivered to the 4-H member. After the chicks have been caponized, the 4-H member will have the important job of properly feeding and managing their flock of capons.

Feeding capons involves the use of properly formulated and supplemented feeds. These types of feed will help the chicks grow into capons that have a "dressed weight" of between eight and eleven pounds in about twenty weeks of feeding.

In order to reach these dressed weights, each capon will eat at least 70 pounds of poultry feed plus large quantities of clean, fresh water.

A sturdy building with screened windows and doors is necessary in order to successfully grow capons. Rats, cats, dogs, skunks and other

wildlife must be kept out of and away from the growing capons. This can be accomplished by designing or remodeling the capon building with these safety features.

A warm, dry building is especially important in early June. This is the period of time when the young chicks need supplemental heat to keep them warm and also to help them recover from the stress of caponizing.

Once the capons have started to grow quickly, the 4-H'er's main concern will be to keep the poultry house floor dry and free of excess moisture, the feeders full of good, high-quality feed, the water fountains full of water and the poultry house well-ventilated. The 4-H member must also be alert for diseases or sickness that may affect the flock.

As the capons reach market weight, the 4-H'er should start to plan and prepare for marketing the capons. Many of the capons are used for family dinners. Some 4-H members dress, package and sell their 4-H capons for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas dinners.

The highlight of the 4-H capon project is in late October or early November at the annual 4-H Capon Round-up. The 4-H member exhibits two of his best dressed capons at this Round-up. The capons are judged on the quality of the dressing job, how well they are packaged for customer appeal and also meat qualities of the dressed capons. Merit ribbons are then awarded to all of the entries. In the

past few years, the Honesdale Rotary Club has sponsored and supported a 4-H Capon Sale as part of the 4-H Capon Round-up.

A final step in the 4-H capon project is to submit a completed capon project book to the Extension Office. The record book can help the 4-H'er learn about keeping good, accurate records and also about feeding and managing a flock of capons successfully and profitably.

The Wayne County Extension Office is currently accepting orders for one-day-old cockerel chicks to be used as 4-H capon projects. The final day to order chicks is April 22, 1985.

Child abuse

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available. Doctor's office, post offices, and other public places can also help reach segments of the rural population who may not be aware of certain social agencies, and the valuable assistance they provide to abuse/neglect victims.

SOURCES

There are a great many groups and organizations that can assist rural citizens in setting up a prevention program, or help to coordinate available social agencies and others in the community that serve victims' needs. The West Virginia Childrens Trust Fund was set up on the state level in 1984. This fund provides local

grants to rural communities who need technical assistance.

The West Virginia Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse encourages the formation of additional chapters of its organization. In north-central West Virginia, one can call (1)-623-K-I-D-S for more information; in Southern West Virginia the number is 344-K-I-D-S (5437).

The Child Abuse Hot Line in West Virginia is 1-800-352-6513. Big Brothers/Big Sisters can also be a source of help, as can local Extension Homemakers Clubs.

Contacting the County Extension Office and the Home Demonstration Agent in one's county is an excellent starting point for resource referral, whether to get a group organized, to get help, or to begin compiling a county informational directory.

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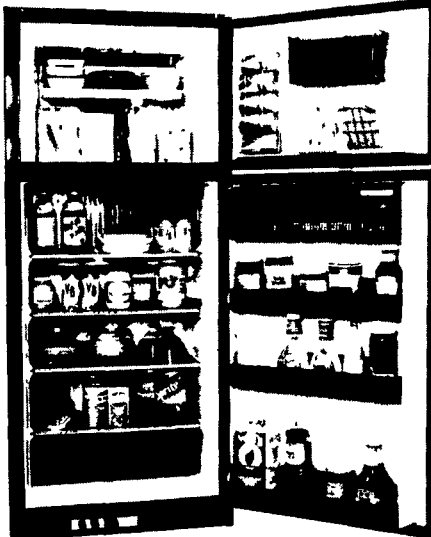
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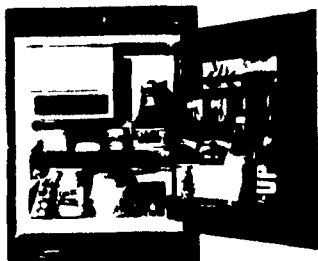
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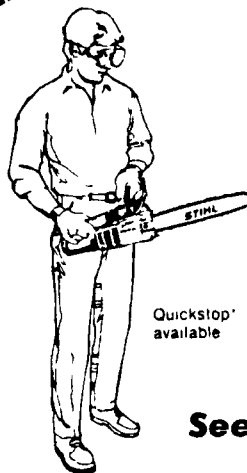
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