

"Keep it simple and safe"

HARRISBURG — "Keep it simple and keep it safe!" is the best advice offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture when using pesticides, according to Dr. Gerald J. Florentine, state pesticide coordinator with the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry.

"The best source of information on care and proper use of pesticides in the garden, home or around the farm is right on the manufacturer's label," he said. "Reading the label and following directions is the simplest, safest way to ensure the desired results."

The Department offers the

following tips when using and handling pesticides:

* Be sure all equipment (sprayer nozzles, pumps, etc.) is in proper working order before applying pesticides. Use the proper tools to make repairs.

* Mix pesticides outside or under proper lighting and ventilation conditions. Take extra care when opening and pouring these materials to avoid spilling or contact with the skin. Protective clothing, goggles, gloves and respirators must be worn when specified on the pesticide label.

If pesticides are spilled on clothing, immediately remove the clothing and wash skin with warm

water and soap. Contaminated clothing should be washed separately as soon as possible.

* Never eat, drink or smoke when mixing or using pesticides. Always wash thoroughly after handling them.

* Don't leave pesticide containers unattended. Remember to return unused portions to the storage area immediately after dispensing the amount needed. ALWAYS store pesticides in a secure, dry place where children, pets or livestock won't accidentally encounter them. Children and animals are curious, but they cannot read labels.

* Keep all pesticides in their original labelled container with the label visible. Never store them in familiar bottles or containers. DON'T store them near food, feed or seeds. Be sure to store herbicides separate from pesticides.

* Containers should be inspected periodically to insure that lids are secure and there is no leakage or corrosion.

* Keep pesticide storage areas

locked. In case of emergencies, such as fire or flooding, inform authorities about the types and quantities of pesticides stored on the premises.

"Pesticides will provide the garden and homeowner with satisfactory results only if used

properly," said Florentine. For additional information concerning pesticides and their use, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or phone (717) 787-4843.

Berks CMA

(Continued from Page D12)

wagon," he observes. Nevertheless, he feels that the success of CMA's will probably parallel that of the now popular DHIA program which also was slow in gaining ground.

If Duncan's predictions come true, Tom Benusa may find himself covering even more Berks County ground. And even though he's ready for the challenge, he's quick to admit that his new responsibilities can be intimidating at times. After all, it's been said that the biomass of all the insects in the world actually

outweighs the biomass of all other living things on earth. Which would seem to put Benusa and his colleagues squarely in the wrong weight class. Then too, lying beyond the bug problems is an entire universe of symptoms associated with diseases, nutrient deficiencies, bird and rodent damage, and of course the weather.

But Tom Benusa isn't deterred as he takes a moment to consider the sea of Berks County farmland rolling into the Blue Mountains to the north. "I've got the best job in the world," he smiles.



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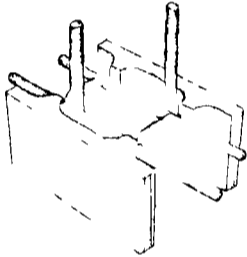
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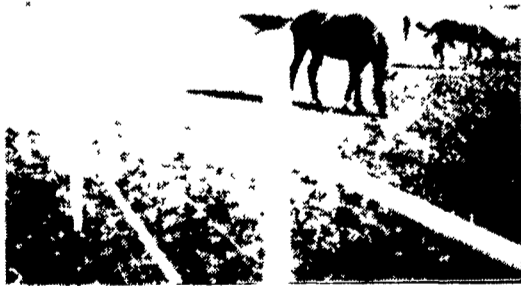
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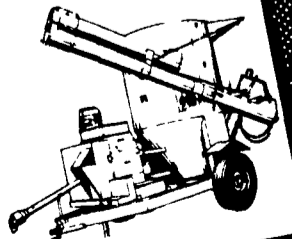
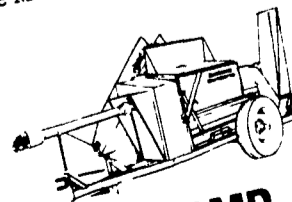
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