

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



This year I actually got my sweet peas planted on St. Patrick's Day and now I'm looking forward to their brilliant color range. Usually it is a week or more later before I get them planted. And, by the time that you read this, I expect to have half of my garden

planted with sugar peas and hull peas. All of the seed is saved from year to year as my particular kinds can't be bought in a store.

When I prepared the garden for the rototiller, I found several vegetables waiting to be harvested. Rather than turn under the

parsnips and salsify, I dug them up and made a meal of them. There were several small cabbage heads to be cut that had sprouted out after the main one was cut off last year. I also cut off several Chinese cabbage plants that were too small last fall and cooked them.

There is a small patch of evergreen onions that stay out all winter and give me green scallions early in the spring. They have been fighting for existence in a grassy plot for several years but seem to be holding their own. All of this makes me feel as though I'm harvesting before I even plant anything.

Our 15 noisy geese think it is spring too as they have started to lay eggs. However, I'm not anxious for them to hatch very many and so we gather and eat them. Day and night these large, white feathered creatures quarrel and fuss.

A few months ago, something or someone scared them away and they swam a mile downstream and joined two other geese on another farm. Those two had often visited our gaggle of geese but our had never left our meadow before.

Then one day they swam home through swift and muddy water and we spent weeks feeding them corn in the meadow and gradually coaxing them up to the buildings again. Now they make several trips a day to our corn crib behind the barn.

Baby Beef Club

The members of the New Holland 4-H Baby Beef Club met recently at the home of club member Heather Yoder. The president called the meeting to order and reports on the members' steers were given.

The program of the meeting was a videotape on how dogs are trained for security at the jail in Lancaster. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments served.

The next meeting will be held at the home of club member Krista Martin.

Worm Farm

(Continued from Page B14)

parison, Mr. Lowe, adds, local nightcrawlers only produce two or three eggs per season.

Regarding the reactions of friends to their wriggly endeavor, Michael recalls that at first many of his friends "thought I was nuts." But when they saw the article in the local paper, he says, his prestige factor went up.

"Most everybody couldn't believe how much we spent to get into it," Matt exclaims.

The best part of the operation, Michael thinks, is, "Using the worms." Since he is an avid hunting and fishing enthusiast, Mrs. Lowe says, Michael could literally be his own best customer.

According to Mr. Lowe, the M&M Worm Farm, with one exception near Pittsburgh, is the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania. He says most worms in the area are imported from Canada. At any rate, many area fishermen will be reaping a harvest because two young boys weren't afraid to open a can of worms.

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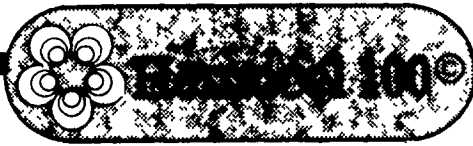
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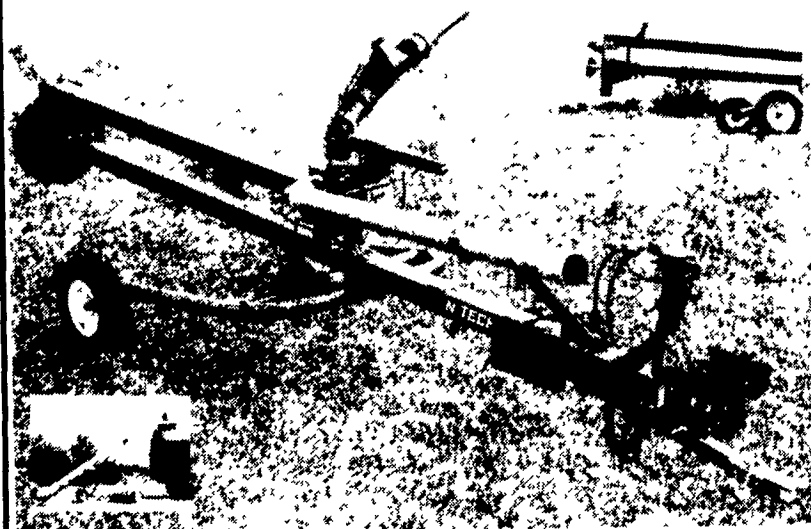
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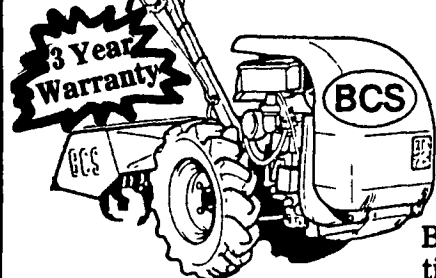
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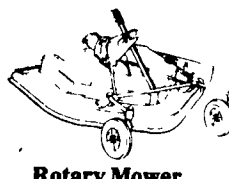
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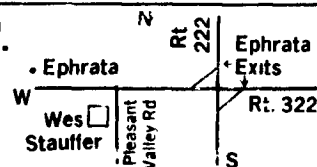
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