

Legislation Needed To Stop Wildlife Damage

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — An official of the Adams County Farmers' Association is calling for a legislative solution to minimize wildlife damage to farm crops.

This announcement was made recently by Mildred Musselman, Gettysburg, chairman of the farm organization committee seeking the legislative relief. She spoke at a news media event after viewing crop damage on the farm of Everett Weiser.

"Farmers support strong hunting and conservation programs for the state's wildlife," Musselman told the group, "but the deer herd must be brought under control." News media, state legislators, county commissioners and others saw first-hand the damage caused by grazing deer at the Weiser Farm.

"An intolerable deer damage problem and insufficient action by

the Pennsylvania Game Commission has prompted our organization to seek help from the general assembly," said Dave Wenk, president of the association.

"It's difficult to place a firm figure on crop damage here in the county," said Musselman, "Because there isn't any good reporting system. But what we saw recently at the Weiser Farm is not an isolated case and for that matter it repeats itself thousands of times across the state."

The farm organization is calling for legislation to let farmers bring in hunters during the growing season to help eliminate deer causing crop damage.

A 1982 Penn State study put losses statewide between \$16 million to \$30 million. Since then, damage estimates have gone much higher because of the doubling of the deer herd size, insufficient

numbers of hunters, increased residential development, decreased access to huntable lands, increased gypsy moth damage, and increasing farm production cost.

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Farmers who have 1992 crop wheat under price support loan will not be permitted to place the crop in the farmer-owned grain reserve when the loan matures, according to Richard Troutman, county committeeman of the Berks County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

"We are notifying farmers now

The efforts of the game commission to reduce the herd size have only this year begun to show some sign of success. Commission statistics show that most counties are still over the recom-

mended population level. Statewide, the antlerless deer population still remains at more than 100,000 over the game commission's recommended level.

1992 Crop Wheat Ineligible For Reserve

because we want them to be able to plan their marketing and price support activities accordingly," Troutman said.

The crop was not authorized for entry into the reserve because the 90-day average market price for wheat was not less than 120 percent of the price support loan rate. "Also, the 1992 estimated ending wheat stocks-to-use ration is less than 37.5 percent," Troutman said.

USDA may allow entry when only one condition is met. Since neither condition is met, the 1992 wheat crop is ineligible for the reserve.

The program is designated to remove grain from the market until prices reach more desirable levels. The program offers short-and-long term benefits to counter the price-depressing effects of surplus stocks.

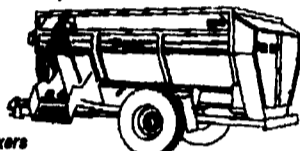
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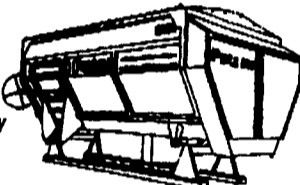
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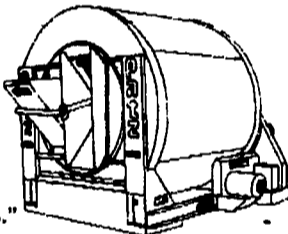
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