PFB Encourages Farmers To Enroll In Program

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau/Farmers' Association (PFB) is encouraging farmers with deer damaged crops to enroll by Sept. 4 in a pilot program offered by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in 16 counties.

"Every year deer consume millions of dollars worth of farmers' crops," said Keith Eckel, president of the statewide arm organization, "Now there's an opportunity to reduce deer populations on farms with excessive crop losses through a program that's being expanded after success in four counties last year."

Farmers in the following counties are eligible to enroll for the upcoming pilot "hotspot" season: Armstrong, Bedford, Berks, Clearfield, Crawford, Dauphin, Erie, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, and York.

The pilot program will allow properly licensed hunters to take deer of either sex on enrolled "hotspot" farms during the regular firearm "buck" season, Nov. 29 -Dec. 11. Farmers in all other counties can enroll, also by Sept. 4, for the regular "hotspot", season on antlerless deer from Dec. 27 through Jan. 22, 1994.

Farmers in pilot program counties who want to enroll or find out more about the program should contact their regional Game Commission office. Toll-free Game Commission telephone numbers for hotspot counties are (800) 533-6764 — Crawford and Erie; (800) 243-8519 — Armstrong, Greene and Indiana; (800) 422-7551 — Clearfield; (800) 422-7554 — Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon; (800) 228-0789 — Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming; and (800) 228-0791 — Berks.

Dauphin, Schuylkill and York. Interested farmers will be vis-

ited by a Game Commission wildlife conservation officer before Sept. 25. Officers will give participating landowners green signs to alert sportsmen that their farmland holds too many deer and are open for public hunting.

Starting in mid-November. hunters can obtain listings of

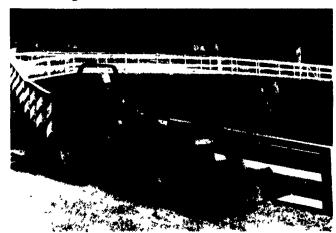
enrolled "hotspot" farms by sending a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to the Game Commission regional office for the county in which they hold an antierless license. A sportsman hunting on a deer damaged farm during the pilot "hotspot" season could harvest both a buck and a doe, providing he or she has the proper antlerless license.

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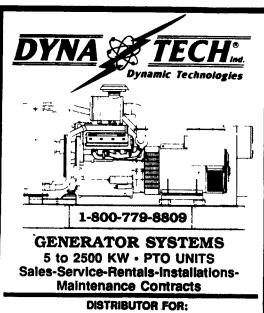
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