

## Farm Bureau Wants More Deer Killed

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Farmers in many parts of the state will suffer higher crop damage losses in 1998 due to action taken by the Pennsylvania Game Commission last year, according to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

In testimony at a recent public meeting in Harrisburg a Farm Bureau representative said the Commission's decision to cut back on license allocations and to eliminate bonus hunting tags for antlerless deer will mean more crop damage prob-

lems for farmers.

A Penn State study shows wildlife caused \$74 million in crop damage in 1994, with deer being the biggest culprits.

"Progress has been made over the past decade with deer management," said PFB Wildlife Damage Control Specialist Joel Rotz. "Last year was a major setback to that progress."

In 1997, the Game Commission reduced the number of antlerless deer allocations from 724,350 for the previous year to 640,288. The cut was over 100,000 license allocations

less than the number recommended by the Game Commission's own Bureau of Wildlife Management to keep the deer herd population at manageable levels.

Adding insult to injury for farmers suffering crop damage was the Game Commission's decision to halt the availability of unsold antlerless deer licenses as bonus tags in many areas of the state. This resulted in over 70,000 antlerless deer licenses going unused last season.

The resulting reduction in

the deer harvest has caused "an increasing level of pressure from our members to pursue establishment of a crop damage fund with monies generated through hunting license fees," Rotz testified. "We urge you to return to a more science-based approach in allocating antlerless licenses and have surplus tags available for purchase this year."

In testimony on other topics, Rotz expressed Farm Bureau's strong support for continuation of the Game Commission's "hotspot" deer hunting program.

The program, known officially as the Deer Damage Area Program, allows a hunter with an antlerless license to harvest an antlerless deer on a farm enrolled in the program during the regular antlered or "buck" deer hunting season.

Farms with deer damage problems are allowed to enroll in the program.

One improvement suggested by Farm Bureau for the program is to have return mailers sent to the past year's hotspot-enrolled farms.

"This would greatly reduce the problem of farmers missing the deadline for enrollment and save the dilemma of trying to reach the regional office through the constantly busy hotline," Rotz explained.

The deer depredation program, which allows out-of-season antlerless deer hunting on farms hit hardest with deer damage, is working well, Rotz told the Commission. While there are not large amounts of deer being taken under either the hotspot or the door depredation program, Rotz said, they are both helpful tools to the

farmers enrolled in the programs.

Farm Bureau's Wildlife Damage Control Committee is pursuing the possibility of making farmers eligible for the deer depredation program after only one year in the hotspot program. Currently, two consecutive years of hotspot enrollment are required as a prerequisite.

Turning to other matters, Rotz addressed the recommendation presented at the Game Commission hearing by a study committee on special regulation deer hunting areas which permit shotgun-only deer hunting.

Although Farm Bureau was a member of the study committee, Rotz pointed out that Farm Bureau has no policy direction from members on the issue.

The committee is proposing that the Game Commission look into expanding the special regulation areas to territory surrounding Pittsburgh and into southeastern Pennsylvania.

Farm Bureau's Wildlife Damage Control Committee will focus on having all appropriate steps taken to properly manage deer populations in the special regulation areas, if they are expanded to address public safety concerns, Rotz said.

Crop damage due to turkeys, particularly in western Pennsylvania, is also a concern to Farm Bureau members, Rotz said. Farm Bureau is recommending the Commission consider lengthening turkey seasons in western Pennsylvania turkey management areas.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is a voluntary, statewide organization representing 25,247 farm and rural families.

## Interest-Free Loans For Ag Students

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Interest-free loans are available from the Clifford E. and Melda C. Snyder Loan Fund.

Vocation/technical, undergraduate, and graduate students in an agricultural program or related study and are residents of Hunterdon County a minimum of five years prior to high school graduation.

Final selection will be based upon a written letter of acceptance from an accredited vocational-technical school or school of higher education. In addition, academic records, extracurricular activities, related work experiences, career goals, and a recommendation from a teacher, adviser, employer, or leader of an agricultural activity will

determine the loan recipients. Preference will be given to former 4-H and FFA members. All decisions of the loan fund selection committee will be final.

A minimum of \$2,000 per year for the length of educational pursuit will be awarded provided a satisfactory academic record is maintained. The number of recipients and the amount of the interest-free money loaned will be determined by the selection committee.

At the end of the educational pursuits, recipients have up to 10 years to pay back the interest-free loan. The payments will be in equal monthly installments.

Additional information and applications can be received by requesting them, in writing, from The Snyder Fund Committee, Hunterdon County Extension Service, 4 Gauntt Place, Route 31, Flemington, N.J. 08822. All applications are due April 15.

## NFU Praises Family Farm Safety Net Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National Farmers Union (NFU) praised the efforts of House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., and other members of Congress for their leadership in introducing legislation to provide a safety net for independent producers.

"The 1996 farm bill gave producers planting flexibility, but it largely ignored their marketing flexibility," said NFU President Leland Swenson. "We are very pleased that this legislation will address that inadequacy."

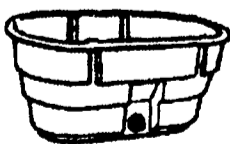
Gephardt announced in a Capitol Hill news conference that he has introduced the Family Farm Safety Net Act of 1998, which will remove loan rate caps that were frozen under the 1996 farm bill and extend the duration of the loans from their current nine months to 18 months. In addition to Swenson, Gephardt was joined for the introduction of the legislation by Reps. David Minge, D-Minn.; Eva Clayton, D-N.C.; Lane Evans, D-Ill.; and Leonard Boswell, D-Iowa.

The 1996 farm bill was passed when grain prices were the strongest they had been in years, but the prices farmers receive have fallen precipitously since then. As of March 12, 1996, corn prices were \$3.77 per bushel, declining to \$2.54 per bushel as of March 12, 1998. Similarly, cotton prices have fallen from 79 cents per pound to 65 cents per pound. Wheat has declined from \$4.85 per bushel in 1996 to \$3.28 per bushel today, and soybeans have fallen from \$7.23 per bushel to \$6.67 per bushel over the same period.

One hundred and thirty Farmers Union members recently urged Congress to give them the tools to compete in the existing marketplace. "The Gephardt legislation is a significant step forward toward accomplishment of this goal," said NFU Vice President of Government Relations Tom Buis.

Similar legislation, the Agriculture Safety Net Act, has already been introduced in the U.S. Senate.

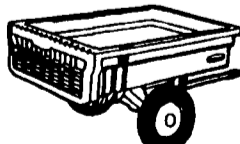
### APRIL SPECIAL



#### Stock Tank Specials

50 Gal.....	\$59.50
70 Gal.....	\$64.95
100 Gal.....	\$69.00
150 Gal.....	\$106.50
300 Gal.....	\$159.99

Sale Ends  
April 30,  
1998



#### 10 Cu. Ft. Tractor Cart

**\$209.00**



ACE HARDWARE  
1739 West Main Street, Ephrata PA 17522  
(717) 738-4241 1-800-453-9243

Store Hours:  
Mon.-Fri. 7:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Sat. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm




Ask About  
Chore-Time's  
SMART Advantage

# Top Reasons To Choose Chore-Time


Northeast  
agri  
systems  
  
Quality  
Buildings  
and  
Equipment

### Feeding



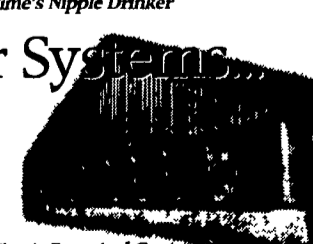
*Chore-Time's  
MODEL C2 Feeder For Improved Conversion*

### Watering



*Better Growth With  
Chore-Time's Nipple Drinker*

### Air Systems




*Chore-Time's Fans And Controls  
Offer Efficient Performance*

Here are just a few of the reasons to choose Chore-Time for your next feeding, drinking, or ventilation system:

- Top Results
- Features & Benefits
- Cost & Labor Savings
- Innovative Products
- Quality & Performance
- Support & Assistance
- Better System Control

If you are looking for improved feed conversion, bird growth, and production efficiency, look no further. Contact us today for details on the many reasons to choose Chore-Time.



**Northeast  
agri  
systems**

Northeast Agri Systems, Inc.

Flyway Business Park  
139A West Airport Road  
LITIZ, PA 17543  
1-800-673-2580  
717-569-2702

Delmarva Office  
305 University Ave  
FEDERSBURG, MD  
1-800-735-6361  
410-754-9434

Store Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
24 Hour-7 Day Repair Service