

## Have A Place For A Pond?

(Continued from Page E13)

tionally hard winter.

The fish may have adapted to a milder climate during the past three winters, said Frehafer, and the pressures of this winter caused greater-than-usual loss, as customers are reporting.

"We're anticipating that people are going to need more fish than ever this year," he said.

In addition, "in the spring, everybody's pond turns green," said Frehafer. "It's really nothing to worry about."

Pond plants, barely out of their soil with new shoots, do not filter sunshine, which the quick-growing algae takes advantage of. The algae takes over for a period of time until the plants start growing and the water clears.

Plants are an integral piece of the pond's ecosystem. Oxy-

genating plants, for example, provide oxygen, food, and a place to lay eggs for the fish, and use up a lot of nutrients quickly, which inhibits algae growth.

Examples of these "bunch plants" are Anacharis, Cabomba, Millfoil, Hornwort, and Parrot's Feather.

Most of the floating plants are tropical and will need to be purchased each spring. "It's even tough keeping them in the greenhouse over winter," he said.

Frehafer will be organizing a pond tour, part of three tours in the Lancaster, Harrisburg, and York counties that features ponds from those areas. The tour provides a chance for pond owners to share ideas and answer questions of interested participants, he said.

For information about the tour, call (717) 626-4771.



Liners have gotten not only bigger but also more heavy duty over the years. In addition to liners, preform ponds are available.

## NFU Board Defends Integrity Of Organic Standards

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Farmers Union board of directors commended Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., for their efforts to uphold the integrity of federal organic standards. The legislators are working to repeal a recently passed law that would weaken standards for organic meats.

A measure included in the FY-2003 omnibus appropriations bill would allow livestock producers to label their products "organic" even if they use conventional, nonorganic feed. This approach was considered

and rejected by USDA in June 2002 and opposed by the organic industry.

In a letter to the co-authors, the NFU board stated, "Legislative language granting a waiver for organic livestock producers to use conventional feed damages the very framework of the organic standards, and the legitimacy of the organic farming industry."

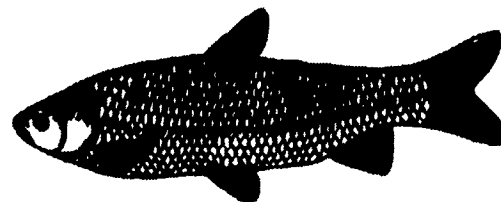
In October 2002, the USDA implemented federal organic standards which stated only organic feed could be fed to animals in order to label them organic. According to NFU

president Dave Frederickson, these standards provided a reliable structure for organic producers to protect the integrity of their sector and for consumers to trust the organic seal.

"After years of thorough discussion and debate, the federal organic standards implemented in October 2002 provide a reliable structure to the fastest-growing sector of pro-

duction agriculture," Frederickson said. "Efforts to weaken these standards would have a dramatically negative impact on organic production."

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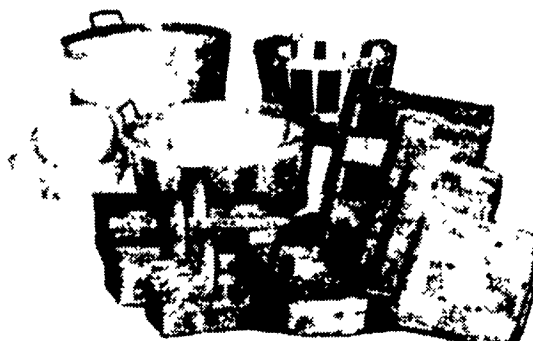
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