

Squirrels Can Cause Damage

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The magnitude of the problem of wood stove safety cannot be minimized, particularly when it's noted that in 1980 wood stoves were responsible to 53 per cent of the 210,000 residential fires caused by all types of heating equipment. During the same year, there were 757,000 residential fires of all kinds. In other words, wood stoves accounted for one out of every seven fires.

While wood burning stoves are attractive, a topic of lively conversation, a cozy way to heat a room or home, and generally well made, they are also highly dangerous if not properly cared for and cleaned. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, fire officials and representatives of the insurance industry, carelessness and improper care and maintenance are largely responsible for the mounting toll of death, injury and property damage.

To help reduce wood stove fires and their tragic consequences, the Insurance Information Institute offers a free leaflet, "Wood Stove Safety." Among other things, the leaflet provides principal do's and don'ts:

DO make sure there is ample clearance between the stove and combustible floors, walls and ceilings.

DO place the stove on a

fireproof base.

DO be sure your stove is made of sturdy, suitable material, such as cast iron or steel. Look for stoves listed by Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or other recognized testing laboratories.

DO remember, if you purchase a used stove, to check it carefully for any cracks or other defects. The legs, hinges, grates and draft louvers should be checked carefully.

DO have a mason or other competent person inspect the chimney.

DO check with local authorities to be sure you comply with local fire and building codes before installing your stove.

DON'T ever burn anything but seasoned, dry hard wood in your stove.

DON'T attempt to start a fire by using gasoline, kerosene or any flammable liquid. Start a fire by using small strips of paper or twigs.

DON'T burn trash in the stove; it is not a garbage unit. DON'T light this year's fire without first cleaning stovepipe elbows, joints and flues, as well as the chimney. Unless you are an experienced and competent do-it-yourselfer, make use of a professional service.

The free leaflet can be obtained by writing to the Insurance Information Institute, 6 Executive Park

Drive, NE, Suite 270, Atlanta, Ga. 30329. Please include a stamped, self-addressed #10 (large) envelope.

Reynolds

Continued From Page 11-A

* Provide in-depth education to improve tobacco grower productivity and profits.

* Promote stronger tobacco farm leadership.

* Broaden grower perspective of the tobacco industry.

"By broadening the pool of knowledge within the growing community, this program strengthens the entire tobacco industry by increasing your ability to produce our basic raw material more efficiently and effectively," Horrigan said.

Horrigan reminded the participants that "Pride in Tobacco," Reynolds Tobacco's grassroots program to unify the industry, is "More than a phrase, it is a way of life."

Horrigan shared the podium with Dr. Bruce R. Poulton, chancellor of N.C. State University. Dr. Chester D. Black, director of extension services at N.C. State, assisted in the presentation of certificates to the program participants.



The average ostrich egg weighs 3.63 to 3.88 pounds. Its 1/16-inch-thick shell can support the weight of a 280-pound man.

U.S. Leading Producer And Exporter Of Food

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commodities tripled in value, rising from \$52 billion to \$169 billion. U.S. farm exports, meanwhile, quadrupled from \$7.4 billion to \$30.8 billion. By 1981 they reached nearly \$44 billion.

Dr. T. Everett Nicholas, Jr., extension grain marketing economist at North Carolina State University, says many factors have contributed to the tremendous growth in America's exports of food, feed and fiber crops during the past two decades.

For one thing, there has been a demand for these products.

Food aid extended to many countries after World War II helped develop markets for U.S. commodities. With Marshall Plan and Point Four assistance, many countries were able to rebuild their economies and in time become commercial customers of U.S. farmers.

World population grew rapidly, exceeding 4 billion. Per capita income levels rose

in most countries. People wanted better diets, and this generally meant more meat and other livestock products.

The Soviet Union, for example, made a policy decision to give consumers a break by increasing livestock production. Food and fiber grain plantings were extended into marginal areas—that is, areas in which crop failures could be expected from time to time.

By the early 1970s, Russia was seriously short of feed. Quietly it sent representatives to the United States to make very large purchases from this country's surplus grain supplies. When this became known, it triggered a wave of grain buying by many countries around the world.

America's dominance in world grain trade has increased since the large Soviet purchases of 1972-73.

A second major reason for the emergence of the United States as the world's leading food and feed crop supplier is the productivity of American

agriculture. This country has large land and water resources. U.S. agriculture, based on what has been called "science power," has been developed to the point where it is more efficient than that of any other major nation.

Farm people make up less than 3 per cent of the U.S. population, but they keep this nation well fed and supply enormous volume of goods for people in other countries.

U.S. Department of Agriculture figures show that in 1980, each farm worker in this country produced enough for 78 persons—52 in this country and 26 abroad. This is a record that has never been equaled.

The Soviet Union turned to America for grain in 1972-73 because no other country had such large stocks on hand. The Soviets continue to need American grain to meet the needs of their consumers.

Because of its agricultural efficiency, the United States

has had the capacity to expand its production more rapidly than its competitors. The nationwide per-acre corn yield, for example, rose last year to 110 bushels, a three-fold increase since World War II. National corn production exceeded 8 billion bushels, an all-time record.

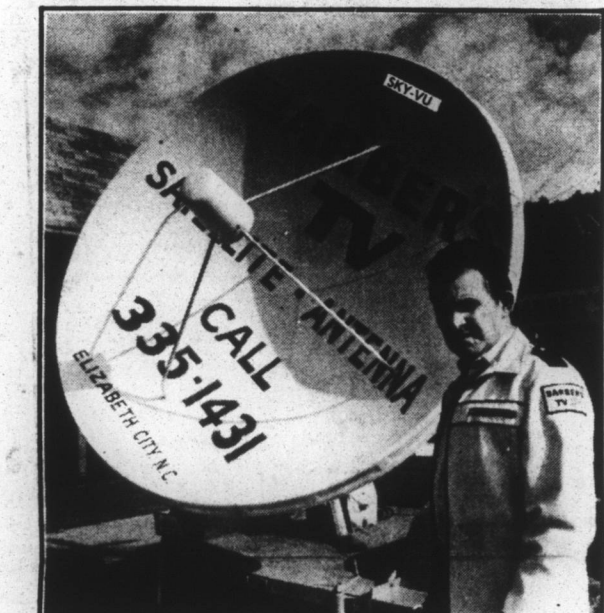
Devaluation of the U.S. dollar in 1971, and the shift to floating exchange rates in 1973, stimulated an increase in foreign demand by lowering the real price of U.S. grain exports to other countries, especially Japan. U.S. exports became more competitive.

The United States has been

able to export large quantities of farm goods because it has had transportation and port facilities adequate for the job.

Trade with any country, of course, depends on U.S. political relations with that country. An embargo on grain shipments to Russia, which has now been lifted, seriously damaged the level of trade with that country. The establishment of friendly diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, on the other hand, has opened up a vast new market for U.S. cotton and other goods.

"Things not understood are admired." Thomas Fuller



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There's a possibility that your child's vision isn't as good as you might think it is. An estimated half a million children aged three through five in the United States have eye disorders—one in every 20 youngsters. Because children have no way of knowing how they should see, they may not complain about a vision problem. One of the eye problems of greatest concern, amblyopia ("lazy eye") may lead to permanent vision loss if not discovered and treated before age six—and it frequently gives no signals through appearance or obvious symptoms. To



help identify eye problems the National Society to Prevent Blindness offers the Home Eye Test for Preschoolers. It's a simple, do-it-yourself way to check a child's sight at home, presented as a game to play. For a free copy of the test, write to the National Society to Prevent Blindness, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

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