

HE'S NOT FOOLING AND FIDDLING AROUND—he's a Future Farmer of America.

## Farming - a most important industry

Last year, the farmers of St. Lawrence County produced \$31 million worth of food products and spent \$22.9 million at local businesses for materials and services needed for farm production.

"These figures prove that farming is one of our country's most important industries," said Augustus Marscher, County Farm Bureau President.

"Few people realize that the commercial farmers of New York State are responsible for a total food industry that provides nearly one-third of all the jobs in the State. This includes shippers, packagers, processors, wholesalers and retailers. A lot of people depend on the success of New York's farm industry."

Richard Beckstead, Chairman of the County Farm Bureau Membership Committee, pointed

out that the health and vitality of that industry rests largely with the success of the Farm Bureau movement. Over 60 per cent of the State's commercial farmers are in the New York Farm Bureau.

"The professional farmer knows that Farm Bureau is the most effective tool he has in reaching those whose decisions affect the farm economy and in giving farmers a unified voice on issues that could injure or aid that economy."

The St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau is now conducting its 1973 membership campaign. Mr. Beckstead said that the County goal of 566 family members is expected to be reached by Nov. 13, the date of the New York Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Syracuse.



WHEN THE TWINE BREAKS, loosened hay must be forked back into the baler. In hot late summer sun, shirts may be shed—but the beard stays.

## Attention farmers!

The result of an investigation by the Farm Bureau indicates that millions of dollars in tax refunds are not being claimed by New York's farmers according to Augustus Marscher, president of St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau. Referring to the State Sales Tax Law passed in 1965, Mr. Marscher said farmers have the right to claim refunds on taxes paid on utilities, fuel oil and motor fuel which is used for production purposes and yet, a vast majority of farmers are unwarily passing up this opportunity.

The farm leader pointed out that under the law, equal benefits are also guaranteed to other industries which use these resources for production purposes. Marscher's statements were confirmed by a spokesman for the State Department of Taxation and Finance who said that only 1,237 refund claims were filed by farmers in 1970.

"On the remaining 21,000 farms alone, each of which produce at least \$10,000 in sales per year," said Marscher, "I am told that the average refund would amount to approximately \$125 per year per farm or a total amount unclaimed per year of nearly \$3 million. Since farmers can claim refunds for the last three years, that means farmers have more than \$9 million coming to them if they ask for it." He emphasized that the average refund

figure would be several times greater for larger operations. Mr. Marscher added that this refund should not be confused with the four cent per gallon federal tax or the eight cent per gallon state tax which actually fall under the category for "use" taxes. He estimated that a higher percentage of farmers, probably around 20 per cent, already claim refunds for the state tax while almost everyone claims a refund for the federal four cent gallon levy.

Asked if job of claiming a refund was a difficult one, Mr. Marscher replied that it is a simple process and involves an uncomplicated, single page form. He further stated that most farmers would have all of the records necessary to complete a refund claim.

In an effort to encourage farmers to collect what's rightfully due them, and what's guaranteed to other industries under the same law, Marscher announced that the necessary form is available to farmers at the County Farm Bureau Office, Mrs. Richard Race, Route 1, Canton, New York 13617. Concluded Marscher, "In an age when farmers must battle a spiraling price-cost squeeze, we cannot afford to pass up any economic benefit which will help us to continue in providing the needed food and fiber."

## Community cooperative succeeds in Potsdam

Already successful, the members of the Potsdam Community Co-operative are now planning for the growth of their organization. The Potsdam Community Co-operative was a direct result of the visit to Potsdam by Paul Horvath, a nationally acclaimed expert on co-operative markets, in March of 1972. Mr. Horvath's visit to Potsdam was noted in the United States Senate Congressional Record of June 30, 1972 through an article by Mrs. Delma Brunauer reprinted in the Congressional Record.

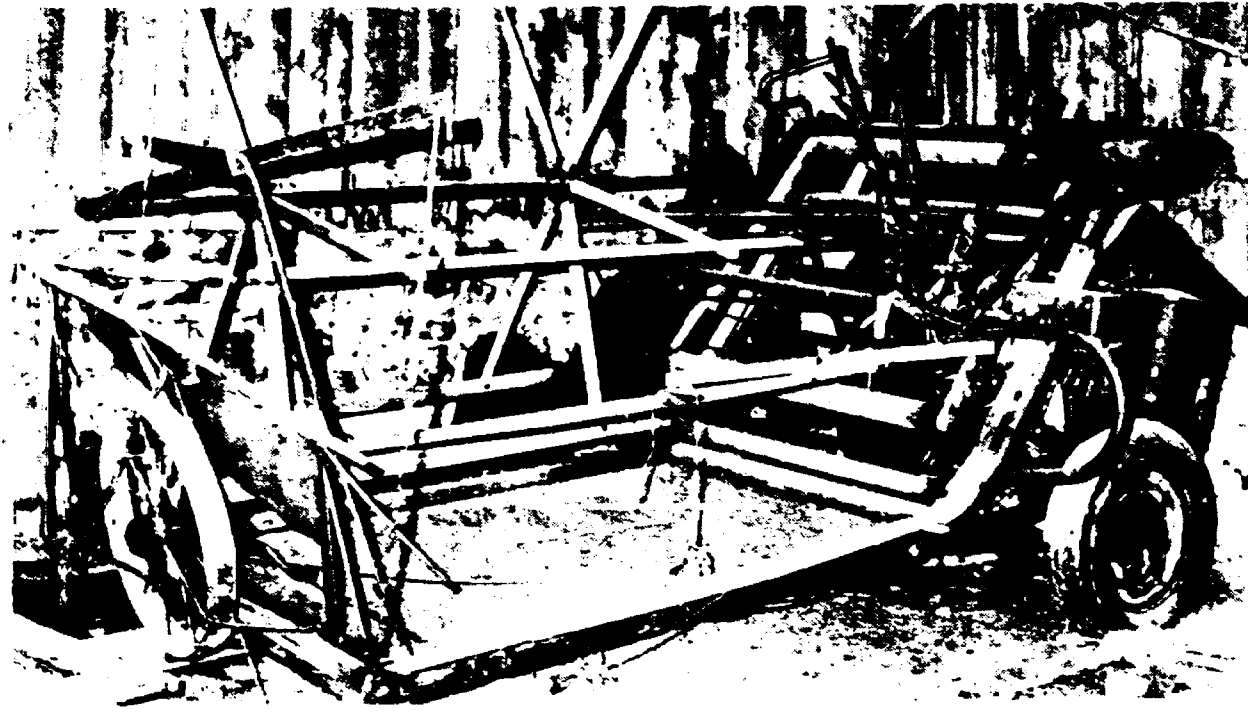
The Potsdam Community Co-operative is a non-profit organization dedicated to securing direct distribution of consumer goods from the supplier to the consumer. It also aims to promote local production through such programs as the Farmers' market. The Potsdam Community Co-operative currently deals in food products only and has already resulted in seven successful Farmers' markets.

Founder Members of the organization include Mr. and Mrs. William Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Potts, Mr. and Mrs. Antony Gados, Mrs. Olive Moffet, Steve Ballan, Robert Wangerien, and the members of Switchboard in Potsdam. Currently there are 189 registered member families.

Anyone interested in joining the Potsdam Co-operative should visit the distribution center on any Tuesday evening. The distribution center is located in the American Baptist Meeting House, 24 Leroy Street, in Potsdam.

Mrs. Moffet, director of the Potsdam Neighborhood Center, has assisted in starting a similar program in Watertown and is planning to help start one in Lowville soon. The Neighborhood Centers assist the co-operative in staff training and funding.

Future plans for the Co-operative include the possibility of finding their own building to house the distribution center.



NOW RETIRED AND RESTING after years of clattering labor, this baler enjoys mice and spiders for quiet company.

## The hunter and posted land

Cornell University is conducting a survey of posted land in the State for the Department of Environmental Conservation, similar to the intensive survey it conducted in the early '60's. Preliminary reports indicate just what everyone suspected, that posting is still on the increase, and that in some areas it has increased dramatically. Most posting is due directly or indirectly to hunters and poor hunter conduct. The earlier study listed the following four prime reasons given by landowners when questioned: 1) unsportsmanlike conduct, 2) more and more hunters coming onto their land without first asking permission, 3) protection of the landowner's family and property, and 4) increasing number of hunters afield.

This fall farmers are generally behind schedule in bringing in their crops, so understandably they will be more sensitive to the conduct of the hunter on their land. Pheasant and goose hunters who like to hunt standing corn must use restraint for this is a delicate point in the farmer-hunter relationship, so much so, that one agreement with landowners in the Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative Hunting Area in southern Cayuga County is that there shall be no hunting in standing corn.

Most landowners have nothing against hunting but like to feel that they have some control over what is going on on their property. The trend toward leasing hunting rights is a good demonstration of this. Hunting is permitted and the owner knows who is on the land. More often than not, it is this knowledge, not the money that changes hands which is

the selling point.

Not many years ago most hunting was done within a few miles of home, and quite likely on the land of a friend. In our day of super-highways and more leisure time, hunters no longer need confine their efforts to their immediate neighborhood. There isn't a prime small game hunting area in New York State that isn't within an hour's drive of some metropolitan area and its throngs of eager hunters, most of whom have no concept of what it is like to run a farm.

This lack of understanding of farm problems is at the heart of many incidents resulting in posting. The best way that an urban dweller can overcome this deficiency is to spend a few minutes talking with his landowner host before he starts his hunt. He will find out which fields have unharvested crops or new seedings that should not be disturbed. Nobody knows what is going on around the farm better than the man who is out there working every day, and he may have some good suggestions on where you will find the best hunting.

After this eyeball-to-eyeball contact, there is less chance that the hunter will leave trash around or do damage to property. On the way out, report what has occurred, and if it has been a particularly good day, leaving a piece of game might be a good expression of appreciation. It seems that many hunters feel that once they have purchased a hunting license they can hunt anywhere they want. The hunting license grants only the privilege of hunting; it has nothing to do with the privilege of entry on the land for the purpose of hunting. Take a careful

look at the bottom of your hunting license and you will find written in capital letters and underlined "NOT A PERMIT TO TRESPASS." The right to go on private land is something that the hunter must work out with the landowner.

There are those who feel that the days of free public hunting are numbered; that hunting will be restricted to those who own or lease land, belong to hunting clubs or who do their hunting on commercial shooting preserves.

If this is to be avoided, today's hunters must remember that hunting is a privilege, not a right. The only way to perpetuate free public hunting is through courteous behavior toward the landowner, his family and his personal holdings. For further information, call: Arthur Woldt (518) 457-5400.

## How to make a terrarium

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One of the most delightful ways to grow a collection of small plants is in a terrarium. This glass enclosure protects the plants from drying out, and enables you to grow plants or to start new plants under perfectly controlled conditions.

The forerunner of the terrarium was the Wardian case, a glass box devised by an early English botanist. The Wardian case was used to house plants collected in distant countries. It protected them from unfavorable weather conditions: salt air, deserts and shifting temperatures. It also enabled the early botanists to grow plant specimens under the most ideal conditions. Most recently, this method of growing plants has moved from the laboratory into the home where it has contributed a very appealing as well as practical decorative touch.

**CONTAINERS**  
Modern terrariums are patterned directly after the Wardian case. Glass jars, old-fashioned candy jars, fish bowls, aquariums, large goblets or bottles can be used. The only requirements are a clear glass container and a cover. Cloudy or tinted glass filters out too much light to be practical. A cover is necessary to control the moisture content and humidity of the terrarium.

The size of the container is optional. Very large containers such as large aquariums, fish globes and wine carboys enable you to use large scale materials such as small evergreens and deciduous tree seedlings. Smaller containers are limited to tiny plants. The scale of the plants should be in keeping with the size of the container.

The container should be large enough to allow some leeway in arranging materials. A practical and inexpensive container is a gallon-size jar used for mayonnaise, pickles and relishes. These are frequently obtainable from restaurants and cafeterias. The opening is large enough to allow you to put your hand inside the container, and it is large enough to hold a good selection of plants.

**SOIL**  
A mixture of one part sand, one part peat moss or humus, and one part loam soil is recommended for terrariums. One level teaspoon of 5-10-5 fertilizer should be added to a six-inch potful of this mixture. Regular garden soil is not recommended because it becomes soggy.

**DRAINAGE**  
Because a terrarium has no drainage hole, some provision for drainage must be made. In smaller containers the moss used on the bottom of the terrarium acts as a drainage layer.

In larger containers several pieces of broken pot to charcoal or a layer of sand may be put in after the initial layer of moss is put down.

**PLANTS**  
Terrariums may be made either of native or tropical plants. If you have many small house plants such as African violets, tropical ferns, miniature ivy and peperomia, you might like to combine them in a terrarium for ease of care. If you wish to use native materials however, a short walk in a woods ravine or along a woodland brook will provide you with the opportunity to gather a variety of native plants. It is not a good idea to combine native and tropical materials. However, native mosses and lichens can be used to advantage in tropical plant terrariums. Cacti cannot be

planted in terrariums because the humid growing conditions cause them to rot.

**PLANTING PROCEDURE**  
Collect flat mosses from moist woodland areas. Select the thin "sheet moss" that grows on flat stones and fallen logs. Place this flat moss face downward in the glass containers so that the mossy side shows through from the bottom.

After placing the moss, add the necessary drainage material and soil. Not much soil is needed—just enough to hold the plants in position. Arrange the plant materials in a logical design. If you wish to display the terrarium mainly from one side, which is the usual case, build up the moss and soil towards the back of the container. Use larger plants toward the back. Cluster smaller plants and creeping materials toward the front. If you wish to make a terrarium to be viewed from all sides, plant the larger materials in the center and use smaller plants around the sides.

In setting the plants try to create a woodland or tropical scene. Use one or two taller plants to simulate trees, some medium sized materials for shrubs and creeping vines, mosses and lichens for ground covers. An open glade may be made with a flat piece of moss or a flat mossy stone. The foreground should be of "sheet moss" to allow a full view into the terrarium.

Do not crowd the materials. The plants should not be pressed against the sides of the container, nor crowded closely against each other. No soil should show. Open spaces may be filled in with pebbles, mosses, lichens and small creeping vines.

A small figurine of good workmanship, a bit of lichen, covered bark, an interestingly shaped stone or a small piece of driftwood may be added as a point of interest. Stones may be partially buried to form a miniature ledge. Do not, under any circumstances

clutter up your terrarium with unlikely bits of cheap pottery. You will find that a restrained arrangement of plants and accessory materials will give the best effect. Remember that plants will thrive under these ideal growing conditions, so they will need some space to grow. It is not necessary to have all of the plants rooted. You may use "slips" or unrooted cuttings. Do not be concerned about covering roots thoroughly. The high humidity will prevent roots from drying until they have a chance to grow down into the soil.

**CARE**  
After the terrarium is planted, wet down the plants and soil with a bulb sprayer. Add water until it starts to seep through the moss on the bottom. Wipe off the inside of the glass with a tissue and put a glass cover over the top of the terrarium to prevent the moisture from escaping. A glass dish, glass ashtray, or a piece of window glass can be used as a cover. You may even have a glass shop cut a cover to fit the top of the container exactly. A simple temporary cover may be made from cellophane, plastic or saran-wrap attached with a rubber band or scotch tape.

Do not let water stand in the bottom of the terrarium. If you overwater, remove the cover for several hours and allow the excess water to evaporate. Plants need very little extra water in a terrarium. Moisture condenses on the sides of the glass and drips back into the soil where it is reused by the plants. A small amount of water may be added about once a month.

Place the terrarium in a light place but not in the direct sun. If plants become too tall, pinch them back. Remove any plants that tend to crowd out the others. A terrarium usually will last through one year, then it should be redesigned. Some of the old plants may be reused, but fresh mosses and new plants may be added to provide new color and interest.



EVENING SHADOWS trace a lace pattern on weathered barn planks.