



ON BUNNIES, BOYS AND BEAGLES

He doesn't usually run, or even walk. He stays in the hole. Further, he is small, seemingly vulnerable, and a favorite quarry of both man and beast.

The subject, in case you haven't guessed, is the cottontail rabbit — that round ball of fur punctuated by exclamation point ears at one end and a fat fluffy period at the other end.

The cottontail, along with his close relative the hare, is the most popular game animal in the world. Each year more hunters pursue him, and burn up more ammunition in the process, than any other game species.

In fact, rabbit hunting may be one of man's oldest pastimes. Far back in the hazy history that is more supposition than record, humans hunted rabbits for both food and fur.

Today, he plays a larger role in the rabbit harvest, and it's a good thing he does. For, the taming of the land in many areas has eliminated many of the rabbit's natural enemies and upset the balance of nature.

In truth, man hunts rabbits because they are so good to eat, so available, and so much fun to chase. A cottontail going flat out still can't make much more than 18 mph. But he can change direction like a ricocheting bullet, zip through impenetrable brush, scoot under logs and seemingly disappear into thin air when he goes to ground.

Cottontails can be found in any bushy area, alder thickets, edges of woods that border crop fields, ravines and gullies, and just the other side of the old stone fence along the road.

Another advantage of rabbit hunting is the excuse it gives for owning a beagle or two. Beagles on a bunny trail rend the fall and winter air with the soul-satisfying joyous music of the happy little hound.

And since many youngsters cut their hunting teeth on rabbits, the presence of a beagle is ideal. If the boy-dog combination is good, the boy-beagle one is near perfect. Pair 'em up, plunk 'em down in cottontail country, and let their natural and noisy enthusiasm take over. It's one of the outdoors' most rewarding partnerships.

Incentive Payments To Be Made On 1970 Wool Sales

Payments will be made beginning about the first of April on marketing of wool and mohair completed in 1970 and reported by January 31, 1971. So reports George Fuller, Chairman of the Allegany County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee, who reminded producers that the 1970 marketing year under the wool and mohair programs ends December 31.

Wool payments are based on the difference between the incentive price (72 cents per pound for shorn wool marketed in 1970) and the average price for marketings during the year. Wool and mohair sales made after December 31, 1970 will not be eligible for payment until early 1972.

Incentive payments are made through ASCS county officers to all producers who file applications and present the necessary sales receipts and other records.

Fuller reminded producers that sales documents must show all details of the sale were completed during the current marketing year — including passing title to the buyer. There must also be a record showing either actual delivery or transfer of control of the wool or mohair to the buyer.

Proof of ownership for at least 30 days is an important requirement, the ASC Committee Chairman said.

To be eligible for payments, producers must own for at least 30 days the livestock from which the wool or mohair was shorn and the unshorn lambs on which they apply for payments. Records must be presented which clearly establish compliance with the 30-day ownership requirement.

Requests for 1970 marketing year payments under the National Wool Act may be filed with the Allegany County ASCS Office as soon as the sales documents are available, but should be filed no later than January 31, 1971, to ensure early payment.

Art And You

"Art and You" is the topic being discussed and reviewed on January 28 at the Presbyterian Parish Hall, Belmont. Sponsored by the Home Economics Division of Allegany County Cooperative Extension Association, the class will be presented at 1:30 P. M.

Mrs. Diane Y. Knack, Cooperative Extension Agent in Orleans County, will be teaching the class. She will discuss basic characteristics of paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints and wall hangings, and factors to consider in buying and producing your own art.

The following will be on display for the class: inexpensive reproductions, original prints, drawing, oils, watercolors, wall hangings, and a selection of books for future study.

This class is open to the public. A small registration fee will be charged for the class. To register call 268-7643 or write the Home Economics Division, P. O. Box 566, Belmont, N.Y. 14813.

1971 Recreation Vehicle Show Opens January 30

Over a million dollars worth of recreation vehicles will be displayed at Buffalo's Masten Army for nine days starting January 30, according to Robert E. Hannon.

President of the W.N.Y. Recreation Vehicle Association and manager of the annual show.

Hannon said types of vehicles on display will include tent trailers, camping trailers, pick-up campers and mobile homes. There will also be large exhibits of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and camping equipment.

Attendance at the 4th Annual Recreational Show is expected to reach 100,000. Hannon pointed out the Buffalo exhibition is the only show of its kind in all of upstate New York and northwest Pennsylvania attracting outdoors fans from a radius of more than 100 miles.

"As new trailer parks are being opened in the area," Hannon said, "more families are buying recreational campers and trailers for week-end jaunts into the hills and woods to return to work on Monday. Today's trailers are used much more than just for the two-week vacation trips.

"The modern camping trailer provides the ideal method of escaping from the noise, bustle and dirty air of large communities. You can take the whole family and enjoy the comforts and conveniences of home without big motel and restaurant costs."

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Winter Hiking In New York State

Winter hikers, snowshoers and ski tourists will find helpful information on their favorite hobbies in two new publications of the Bureau of Forest Recreation of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

One, called "Winter Hiking in New York State," features text and maps describing nordic skiing and snowshoeing trails in the Catskills, the Lake Placid and Adirondack high peak area, the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, the Schroon Lake region, the Old Forge region, the Cranberry Lake region, Gore Mountain Ski Center and the Capital District. Much of the text and preparation of the maps in this 21-page publication is the work of well-known outdoor enthusiast Almy Coggeshall of Schenectady.

The second publication consists of maps and text describing the trails in the Lake Placid and Adirondack high peak area, including the Mt. Van Hoevenberg trail system. This folds to provide size for easy reference in the field.

Both publications are available

Appreciation

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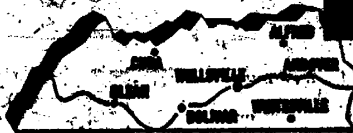
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