LA CROSSE TRIBUNE
LA CROSSE, WIS.
(eS) 33,000

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Problem Of Disposal

The current concern over polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) residues found in Lake Pepin fish points up the axiom of, "You can't throw anything away," in a closed system such as earth's biosphere.

Accumulating solid wastes are evidence of our indifference in recycling. Liquid wastes in dribs and drabs can be disposed more subtly in lakes, streams and oceans, but in the case of PCB and DDT they came back to haunt us.

The cost of proper disposal of any waste often has been used as an excuse for not doing it. Little attention is paid to the cost that results because it isn't done. For example, the commercial fishermen put out of business by the contaminant aren't likely to be compensated because responsibility for the chemical entering the lake can't be fixed on anyone.

To use a tired and trite phrase, "It's time for a change." Rather than the equally trite phrase, "Dispose of properly," that appears on everything from beverage cans to labels on pesticides and insecticides, there needs to be a knowledge of how and a requirement that it be followed.

Turkey Stocking

The Department of Natural Resources(DNR) is planning stocking of wild turkeys into Vernon County, and effective today (June 1) no new permits are to be issued to individuals or clubs for stocking game farm turkeys without prior approval of the Administrator, Division of Forestry, Wildlife and Recreation.

In addition, the stocking of pheasants, quail and grey partridge will not be permitted without prior approval in areas where the DNR has or is planning to establish wild turkeys.

Towns affected by the permits are Bergen, Hamburg, Harmony, Genoa, Sterling, Franklin, Wheatland, Jefferson in Vernon County, and Freeman, Seneca and Eastman in Crawford County.

The reason for the restriction is there is a possibility that disease from immune game farm pheasants, quail or grouse may be transmitted to wild turkeys. To ensure protection of introduced wild turkeys, as well as other wildlife species in the area, the decision to prohibit private stocking of turkeys, and in certain instances, other gallinaceous birds has been made.

According to the DNR, when game farm turkeys are released to the wild, the potential for transmitting diseases to other game and nongame birds is great. It says turkeys reared in pens, for most part, are fed like other farm fowl, and generally their food is a commercially prepared mixture which contains antibiotics to arrest any number of common farm yard diseases.

Because of the antibiotic treatment, these birds will develop immunities to diseases which prove lethal to native wildlife. It says pen-reared can and do act as carriers and have been known to transmit blackhead that is extremely lethal to wild turkeys, moderately lethal to quail, grey partridge and pheasants; candidiasis, lethal in various intensities to ruffed grouse, quail and herring gulls; coccidea, lethal to pheasants, and Newcastle disease virus, very contagious to most gallinaceous species.

The DNR says game farm turkeys nest earlier in the spring, and a late winter may nearly eliminate a year's production. It says gene pool dilution of wild turkeys by game reared one is a subtle catastrophe recognized only when it's too late.

The DNR has arranged exchanging wild trapped ruffed grouse for wild trapped turkeys with the Missouri Conservation Department for stocking in Vernon County. Additional information may be obtained from Ray Kyro, DNR area game manager at the State Office Building in La Crosse.

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