

Stocking Trout in Pennsylvania— The Times Have Changed



Moving trout for stocking from the hatch house, Pleasant Gap State Fish Hatchery, circa 1920

When stocking first began, the only way to transport fish from the hatcheries was with a horse and buggy. This method worked great for short distances, but it was impossible to stock streams more than a few miles away. In the 1800s, a huge event took place for everybody in the nation—the railroad. Just as the railroad had replaced horses, trucks replaced railroads.



STOCKING THEN AND NOW

HOW	THEN	NOW
Method of Transportation	Milk Cans in Railcars or Horse Drawn Wagons	Stocking Trucks
Control Water Temperature	Adding Ice	White Truck with Insulated Tanks Reflects Heat and Keeps Water Cool Inside
Circulate Water and Maintain Oxygen Levels	Done by Hand Using a Ladle to Stir; Change Water if Available	Oxygen Tanks or Aerators Pump into Each Fish Compartment; Powered Pumps Circulate the Water
Number of Fish Transportated	A Few Hundred Fry and Fingerling Sized Trout in Each Can	A Maximum of 3,500 10-inch Trout per Truck

