

At Landisville Reseach Farm Crop Day August 5

Wide Variety of Data Available

The Field and Vegetable Crop Day at Penn State's Southeastern Field Research farm near Landisville Wednesday, August 5 offers area farmers and gardeners an opportunity to learn more about one or more crops that interest them.

Three or four qualified Penn State educators will be on hand, along with research farm personnel, to answer any questions.

Goal of the research farm is to develop crop varieties suitable to Southeastern Pennsylvania and find out the particular crop practices which will result in the highest yields. The results of all this work are available to the individual farmer — if he will take the time to get it.

The special field day August 5 will be held in two sessions, from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. till dark.

49 Varieties

Work at the research farm this year, for instance, includes field tests of 49 different sweet corn varieties, including 42 yellow hybrids and seven white hybrids.

John Yocum, farm superintendent, explained that the research work in developing these varieties often takes 10 years and can take as long as 25 years. It's careful, detailed work to develop a practical new variety that meets all the requirements to be successful, including resistance to disease, sturdiness of stalk, uniformity of growth, and high yield.

Some of the early corn varieties at the farm will be ripe in the next week or so and will have completed production by the August 5 field day; this will enable visitors to see the gamut of the varieties, from those which have completed production to those in production and coming into production. Yocum also promised yield statistics will be available on the completed varieties.

Several different combinations of herbicides are being used to control weeds in corn, with some proving highly effective on tough weeds such as nutsedge.

Tobacco Research

It will be getting near harvest time for tobacco at field day and tobacco farmers will have a chance to see the research farm's tobacco and get up to date information. The research farm is the only place in Pennsylvania where tobacco research is done, Yocum said. Most of the tobacco grown in the state is grown in Lancaster County.

The research farm does work on tobacco varieties and most area farmers grow a variety developed at the farm.

Soybean Work

Several soybean varieties also are being grown. Yocum believes this crop, which has grown very rapidly nationally, may have some application locally. Officials say few farmers in Lancaster County grow the crop, although it is reported somewhat more popular in Lebanon County.

In particular, Yocum believes that a crop of soybeans can be grown on ground after barley is harvested. Unlike some other farm crops, soybeans respond well to hot mid-summer weather and their growing season is relatively short, making it possible to produce two crops in one year — barley and soybeans.

Soybeans also can be grown early in the season and followed with alfalfa, Yocum said.

The soybean-alfalfa combination would tend to fit in better with many local farming operations which need the alfalfa for their dairying operations, he noted.

Various research projects are underway on forage, including

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Jim Dutt, Penn State extension horticulturalist, inspects some of the 49 varieties of sweet corn being grown at the Southeastern Field Research farm near

Landisville. Dutt is one of several Penn State extension officials who will be on hand August 5 to answer questions about numerous crops grown at the farm.



Arnold Lueck, associate Lancaster County agent, checks squash being grown at Penn State's Southeastern Field Research farm near Landisville. Lueck was at the farm recently to help plan the August 5 Crop Day.

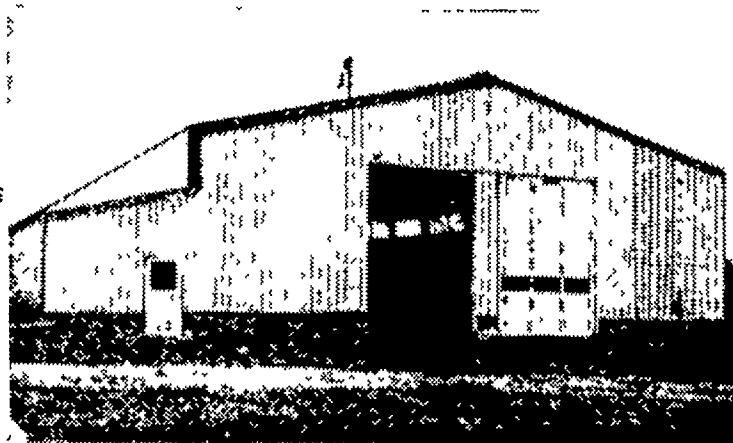
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