



Two Lebanon County farmers, who produced the state's best silages during 1973, were honored at the annual Forage and Seed Conference November 19 at The Pennsylvania State University. Warren Bucher, second from left, of RD2, Myerstown, receives plaque for his champion

hay crop silage sample; and third from left, Robert Weidler, of RD2, Palmyra, who exhibited the grand champion corn silage sample. At left is Newton J. Bair, assistant Lebanon County agent; and right, J. N. Weidman, of Pioneer Hybrid, Inc., president of the Pennsylvania Grassland Council.

## U.S.-China Soybean Cooperation Urged

A leading American economist has suggested that the United States and China create a Sino-American soybean research institute to boost production and ease shortages of soybeans in protein starved parts of the developing world.

Lester Brown, a senior economist at the Overseas Development Council, in Washington, D.C., believes the combination of American technology and know-how combined with the wide variety of soybean germ plasm in China could boost production to meet the protein needs of the developing nations in Asia and Africa.

The United States and China account for 90 per cent of the world production of soybeans, a major staple in the diets of Asians and Africans. Soybeans also are the dominant source of protein for livestock and poultry feed in North America and Europe.

But although American farmers are planting increased acreage in soybeans, the yield per acre has remained almost static.

With nearly all the idle farmland in the United States being put back into food production, increased production of soybeans has about reached the maximum under known methods. This limit is being reached at a time when demand for more protein, particularly the high quality protein contained in soybeans, is sharply rising.

In an editorial in Science Magazine, Brown said, "These difficulties in raising soybean yields in a land-scarce world suggest the need for a much greater research effort and in particular for the creation of a Sino-American soybean research institute.

"Since the soybean originated in China, it probably has the most diverse available collection of germ plasm, a vital asset in an expanded soybean research effort.

"On the other hand, scientists in the United States have expended a great deal of effort to devise better cultural practices

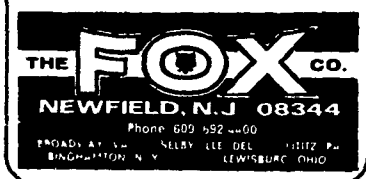
and to make the soybean plant more productive.

"The critical importance of the soybean to both economies, not to mention mankind as a whole, and the pressing need to achieve a breakthrough in yields of soybeans, argues for a pooling of germ plasm, the coordination of research efforts and the sharing of research results,"

Brown said while worldwide demand for protein is growing, "the supply problem is less promising."

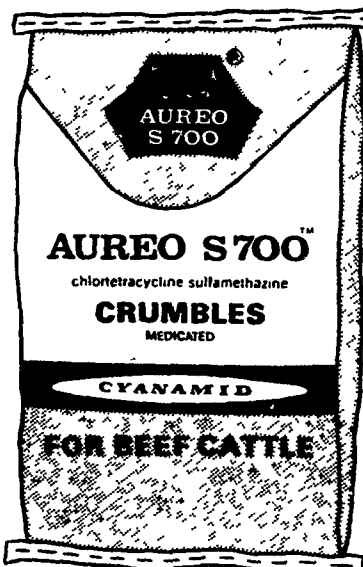


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Although one in every six acres of American cropland now is planted in soybeans, the Department of Agriculture projects a decline in the soybean crop in 1974 as other crops compete for acreage.

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