

Twin Valley Young Farmers Begin Programs

Twin Valley Young-Adult Farmers met on November 11, 1974 in the vocational agriculture classroom of the Twin Valley High School. Mr. Robert S. Moyer, assistant high school principal, welcomed the young adult farmers and their new educational program to Twin Valley.

Dick Coughenour and Don Shriker, Advanced Ag Associates representatives from Demotte, Indiana, presented a program on soil and crop management. Mr. Coughenour showed a slide presentation to illustrate that proper soil management will build-up the organic matter of the soil and increase crop yields. Mr. Shriker emphasized the importance of the concept

"Living Soil" for proper plant nutrition and animal health. He pointed out that both the quality and the quantity of agricultural products could be increased through total management of the physical, chemical, and biological processes of the soil.

The Twin Valley Young-Adult Farmer planning committee has the next educational meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 1974. The topic for the meeting will be Comparing Corn Hybrids. Speaker for the evening will be Mr. Glenn A. Shirk, Chester County Agr. Agent.

Programs and activities for the young-adult farmer program are selected and planned by the planning

Feed Grain Crop Reduced
Corn production prospects nationally were lowered to 4.6 billion bushels as of November 1. This was 2 percent less than forecast on October 1 and 18 percent below output in each of the past 3 years. Sorghum grain production, forecast at 609 million bushels, was 4 percent below last month and 35 percent less than the 1973 record crop.

Total feed grain production this year is estimated at 165 million tons, a fifth less than last year and 3 million below last month's estimate. With this change, we have reduced both projected

committee. Committee members are: Gary Stoltzfus, Elmer Hertzler, Titus Beam, Frank Stoltzfus, and Milford Mast, all of Elverston, RD2.

Each monthly educational meeting will feature a topic designed to meet the needs and interests of the members. Meetings are open to anyone working in agriculture or related occupations. If you have an idea or educational program that you would like to see developed, please contact a member of the planning committee or the agricultural section of Twin Valley High School.

domestic use and carryover a little since our last report.

Total feed grain disappearance for 1974-75 is forecast at 175 or 176 million tons, leaving a minimal carryout of around 11 or 12 million next fall. Domestic use may total 126 or 127 million tons (down 18 percent from last season) and exports about 30 or 32 million (down 28 to 33 percent).

Less Soybean Output
The November crop report indicated a 1974 soybean crop of 1,244 million bushels compared with last month's estimate of 1,262 million and last year's output of 1,567 million. Yield per acre is placed at 23.7 bushels compared to 24.0 in October and 27.8 last year. The reduction in the 1974 crop estimate since October is mainly reducing the anticipated crush. Soybean oil

and meal exports in September proved less than anticipated, reducing the 1973-74 marketing year totals and increasing carryout.

Rice Output Boosted
The 1974 rice crop as of November 1 is estimated at a record 114.8 million cwt., up 1.2 million from the October report. Increased acreage and yields in Louisiana are responsible. Demand estimates for the crop are unchanged from our last report.

Cotton Prospects Deteriorate
Weak demand and smaller production keynote the 1974-75 cotton situation. Production prospects declined further during October as wet weather in the Delta and Texas dropped yield prospects. The indicated national average yield is now 443 pounds per

harvested acre, sharply below last year's 519 pounds, and moderately below the 1969-73 average. Production is estimated at 12.1 million bales, down 6 percent from the month-earlier forecast, and 7 percent below the 1973 crop.

Meanwhile, sluggish mill demand both here and abroad is reducing total cotton use. Both U.S. mill consumption, estimated at 6.3 to 6.8 million bales, and projected exports, at 4 to 4.5 million, are moderately below earlier indications and sharply below 1973-74 levels. So with disappearance below production, we expect about a 5 million bale carryover on August 1, 1975, compared with last summer's 3.9 million.

Note: The November crop report carried no wheat production estimates. Also, our wheat demand projections are unchanged from our last report.

Increasing Corn Yields

Agricultural scientists are seeking ways to utilize more energy from the sun to increase yields of corn, the nation's most important grain crop, as announced recently. The occasion was the annual joint meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America.

One solution is to develop corn plants that can use two or three times as much solar energy as absorbed now, declared Dr. Jack C. Shannon of the College of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University. He said that corn plants now use less than one-half of 1 percent of the solar energy reaching a cornfield.

The corn plant's capacity to convert sugars into starch

may be one of the processes regulating yield, Dr. Shannon suggested. He and his associates at Penn State are carrying out experiments to determine the pathway of starch biosynthesis in intact living cells. Their research is one aspect of long-range studies seeking ways to improve crop yields.

Dr. Shannon and associates, including graduate assistant Liu-Jen Chu of Taiwan, have established tissue cultures of the starch-storing cells, the endosperm, from corn kernels. In his comments, Dr. Shannon reviewed studies designed to establish optimum conditions for corn endosperm tissue culture growth and starch accumulation.

He reported that a simple modification of the growth

media stimulated starch accumulation. This suggests, he said, that such endosperm cells may be used as a model system for studying starch biosynthesis in intact plant cells. These tissue cultures are currently being used for studies designed to establish the pathway of starch biosynthesis.

Eventually scientists will be able to genetically combine plants having improved capacity for having higher rates of photosynthesis and improved capacity for movement of sugars from the leaves into the kernels. When this occurs, geneticists should be able to produce a plant with a much improved utilization of solar energy.

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What retail prices have jumped highest in the past three years? Food prices. According to U.S. Department of Labor figures, bacon has since 1971 gone up 103% followed by potatoes (98%), pork (91%) and eggs (81%).

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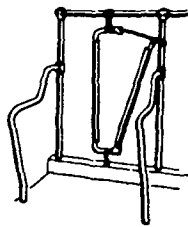
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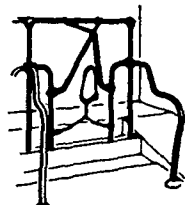
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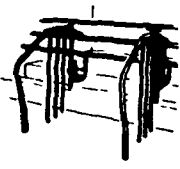
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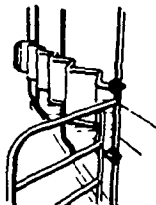
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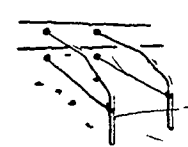
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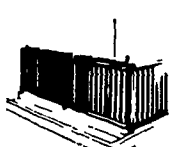
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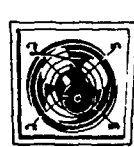
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