

## Feeder Calf Sale Slated

The Maryland Cattlemen's Association annual graded feeder calf sale will be held at the auction market of Four States Livestock Sales Inc., East First St., Hagerstown, Md., Monday, April 14.

The Cattlemen's Association anticipates that some 350 feeder calves will

be assembled for the sale which gets underway at 7 p.m. sharp.

Collection and grading of the feeder calves will be done on the same day of the sale in an effort to reduce handling fees and save energy for all involved says Richard Baker, livestock marketing specialist with

## No-Till Corn Increasing in Pa.

No-till corn is reported on the increase in Pennsylvania, according to Dr. Nathan Hartwig, weed specialist at Penn State. No-till acreage now amounts to one-third of the total one and one-half million acres of corn in the state, and Dr. Hartwig predicts it will encompass two-thirds within the next five years.

The benefits of no-till according to Dr. Hartwig are many; primarily, the reasons Pennsylvania corn growers are switching are

the Maryland Department of Agriculture which is assisting in the sale.

Animals may be brought to the auction grounds between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. on sale day. They will be vaccinated against blackleg, graded, weighed, and individually tagged as they arrive. Animals also will be grouped by farm, whenever possible, to assure uniformity. Featured breeds will be Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, and crosses.

According to Mr. Baker, "cattlemen are placing strong emphasis on the need for industry support of the auction system for graded feeder calves. Quality calves will attract buyers willing to pay top dollar. Participation in the open market will help the producer establish the price for cattle from among a number of buyers instead of just taking a price through direct sale involving only one potential buyer."

"Calf producers and feed lot operators are urged to support the graded sales by buying and selling stock through them," he said.

the reduced time necessary for land preparation, reduced soil erosion, and greater moisture retention. "Pennsylvania is a dairy state," reports Dr. Hartwig, "and most farmers have a herd of cattle which demands a lot of time, consequently, they like to spend as little time in the field as possible."

No-till certainly provides some answers to the problems of Pennsylvania corn growers, but there are drawbacks associated with the practice also. By not plowing the fields and leaving a mulch cover on the soil, growers offer a golden opportunity for weeds and soil insects to proliferate and cause severe problems. Management practices to control these associated problems must accompany the switch to no-till, Dr. Hartwig feels.

Specifically in terms of weed control, the absence of plowing eliminates the cultural control of problem weeds so growers must use chemicals as a means of weed control. Some chemicals like Sutan + with atrazine or Eradicane must be incorporated into the soil to work effectively in a "minimum" tillage system. By disking these chemicals into the soil prior to planting, good control of annual grasses and nutsedge can be achieved with a minimum of time spent on the field. Application and incorporation can be done in one pass over the field.

Dr. Hartwig is presently working on a minimum

tillage system using crownvetch as a cover crop to offer increased soil stabilization and, since crownvetch is a legume, nitrogen to minimum tillage cornfields.

Tests done by the Penn State agronomy department showed yields up to 210 bushels per acre and an average of 165 bushels per acre under ideal conditions with this system.

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