

# Grain Crops Featured At July 1 Field Day

New varieties of wheat, barley, and oats - and management procedures for high yields - will be demonstrated July 1 during the annual Field Day to be held at the Agronomy Research Farm of The Pennsylvania State University, 8 miles west of the campus on route 45. Field day tours will begin at 9:30 a.m.

"If you want to take in all the field day events, plan to arrive by 9:30 a.m. and spend the day at the farm," suggests Lynn D. Hoffman, chairman of arrangements and superintendent of the Agronomy Research Farm. Lunch will be available.

A new variety of winter wheat with several outstanding merits for production in Pennsylvania will be shown. Still unnamed, it has yielded 9 bushels more

per acre than the popular variety Redcoat. It has good resistance to the major diseases - mildew, loose smut, and septoria blight. It has some resistance to the Hessian fly, enough to avoid severe damage.

This new wheat is referred to as W7901, its selection number. W7901 also has two other forms of important disease resistance. It has partial resistance to the Wheat Spindle Streak Mosaic. As yet it is the most resistant variety observed. The disease accounted for poor wheat yields in 1968 and 1973 in Pennsylvania. W7901 also resists grazing by deer. Since it is bearded, deer will not eat the heads.

Several new stiff-strawed lines of barley with high yields and good winter hardiness will be shown. Plots will show virtual break-throughs in breeding winter barley. Some of the types are beardless like Pennrad. However, they stand up where Pennrad falls down from stalk rot. Feed quality and potential matting qualities of barley will be discussed.

Cultural methods and planting techniques for wheat and barley will be demonstrated. The object will be to show farmers how

to produce maximum yields through proper management and cultural practices.

Research to develop oat varieties with improved yield, standing ability, disease resistance, and feed grain quality will be demonstrated. Twenty different varieties will be shown from a spring oat performance test as grown at three locations in Pennsylvania. This involves cooperative research between personnel at Penn State and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In addition, over 40 oat varieties will be shown in two tests that are grown on a national basis. Several of these varieties are new releases from mid-western states. They may eventually be recommended for Pennsylvania.

Plant breeders will discuss oat production problems that may be solved or reduced by developing varieties with short and stiff straw, improved disease resistance, and better grain quality.

In addition, field-scale demonstration plantings will be displayed of the varieties Clintford, Otee, Noble, Stout, Dal, Orbit, Astro, Mariner, and Pennfield. Astro and Otee were first recommended for 1975 and Noble and Dal will be recommended for 1976. Otee and Dal have about 2 per cent higher grain protein than other recommended varieties. Specialists will be on hand to discuss charac-

teristics of the various varieties, seed availability, and proper management for maximum grain yields.

Small plot trails will also include four spring wheat

varieties - Pittic 62, Chris, Waldron, and Polk. Five spring barleys will also be shown - Erie, Herta, Conquest, Burk, and Trent.

Penn State's July 1 Agronomy Field Day will also feature demonstrations of weed control and no-tillage methods, in addition to varieties of forage crops and their management.

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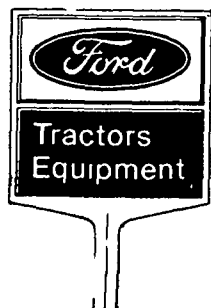
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