

ASCS to determine crop acres by aircraft

HARRISBURG—Small aircraft and cameras are being used in southeastern Pennsylvania to spot check farmer reported acreage of wheat and feed grains, according to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee. Normally, ASCS personnel

completed spot checks on the ground by farm visit. This method of checking agricultural program compliance has been used in other states and determined to be less costly than farm visits, the chairman added. Farms to be spot checked will represent about 10 per

cent of the farms that have reported acreages of 1977 wheat and or feed grains (corn, barley, and sorghum). The spot check is required by national program regulations to determine the accuracy of acres voluntarily reported by farmers. Reported

acres found to be in error will be corrected at county ASCS offices. This acreage is expected to be used as a farm base from which 1978 set-aside program reductions may be made if determined necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture. The proposed set-aside program is expected to be voluntary.

The aircraft-photo process involves taking pictures of identifiable crops from approximately 1,000 feet in the air. The picture taken will be a color slide photo. This image will be superimposed on large photographs taken county-wide several years ago.

The large photographs have been adjusted in scale to equal ground measurements. County photography is at a scale of one inch on the photograph equals 660 feet on the ground or at a scale of one inch of photograph equals 1,000 feet on the ground. The new color slide pictures will identify the crop and indicate landmarks by which ASCS can determine field boundaries on the larger photographs. Acreage will then be determined in county ASCS offices. This process also enables ASCS to update farm acreages where farmland use has changed to development, roads, and other uses.

This method will save considerable ASCS time compared to personnel

making on the farm inspection. It will also save the farm operator time in pointing out the location of various fields and strips.

Pennsylvania ASCS is

testing this new procedure in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties.

Field day planned in Delaware

DOVER, Del. - The University of Delaware's annual Farm and Home Field Day has been scheduled for August 10, this year. Plans are now being finalized for the event, which is held at the university substation, located six miles west of Georgetown on the Laurel-Georgetown Highway (Route 9). Activities begin at 9:30 a.m. and include features of interest for both the farmer and the homemaker.

Crop research and extension projects will focus on tillage production of corn and soybeans, chemical weed control, variety testing, irrigation and fertility, plant breeding, corn insecticides and the use of plastic netting for flower production. There are also research plots concerned with the control of air pollution effects on sensitive

crops and the production of root crops in ground prepared with a subsoiler.

The program for homemakers will include several demonstrations and exhibits on such topics of current interest as: using microwave ovens; barbecuing and food safety; plus the storing, preparation and cooking of poultry and seafood. Fran Shoffner, retired Sussex county extension home economist, will be available to test canning lid gauges from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. The homemakers' programs will take place in the substation meeting room.

Visitors to Field Day can participate in general bus tours of the substation and specialized wagon tours going only to the corn and soybean, or the vegetable and ornamental plots. There will also be numerous exhibits and demonstrations in the shaded grove area. Researchers and extension personnel will be on hand to discuss their work as well as lead the bus and wagon tours of the plots.

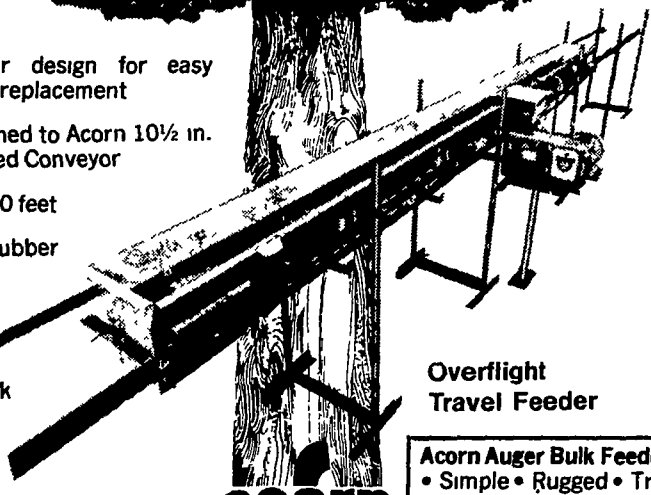
A plant diagnostic clinic will again be in operation, with specialists helping visitors to identify and diagnose plant pests and diseases.

A traditional fried chicken lunch will be available at noon in the grove (tickets \$2). Activities conclude with a watermelon break at 3:30 p.m.

All interested persons should be sure to reserve August 10 for this popular annual event.



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