

Del. ag college funded for expansion

NEWARK, Del.—A number of changes in the University of Delaware's College of Agricultural Sciences will expand its service potential, reports Associate Dean Dr. William J. Benton. Speaking to members of Sussex County service clubs on the eve of the University's annual Farm and Home Field Day at the Georgetown Substation, Benton said the College will be able to serve both producers and consumers of agricultural products in the state better as a result of these improvements.

As the top of the list comes

construction of Worrirow Hall—the new teaching and research laboratory building for the College. Work on this is now well under way. "The new facility is scheduled for occupancy in the fall of 1980 and will contain 36,000 feet of teaching and research laboratory space. The appropriation of 3.1 million dollars in the state's latest capital bond bill provides a total of 6.5 million for this much needed addition to Agricultural Hall."

Benton also announced the assignment of four new faculty positions. "These positions will help reverse

the decline in recent years of scientific manpower for research on agricultural problems, while maintaining an effective teaching program," he said. They include one appointment in soil science, one in plant physiology-ornamental horticulture, one in agricultural engineering and one in poultry virology.

In addition, he told his audience, significant increases in funding from state and county sources have been made available for poultry and swine research and extension programs. Money provided

by the Delaware General Assembly has helped to establish a swine research and demonstration facility at the Georgetown Substation and to construct a new machinery storage building there. "Supporting dollars to assist our swine and poultry programs were recently approved by the Sussex County Council," he added. And a private industry gift will make it possible to build a modern teaching broiler house on the University farm in Newark.

Benton also reported that significant outside funding has been obtained for a number of important research projects to be conducted at the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station—the research arm of the College. These include a pilot study of solar heating of broiler houses and a study of water pollution (department of agricultural engineering); studies of immunity in poultry diseases (department of animal science and

agricultural biochemistry); and studies of the effective disposal and use of sewage sludge and power plant waste (department of plant science).

The administrator stressed the importance of such agricultural research, noting that in their own way the men and women who pursue these projects are as dedicated to service as the more familiar county agents and extension specialists whose job it is to take the results of research out into the community and show how these results can be applied.

"Agricultural research conducted by scientists at Delaware and other land grant universities throughout the U.S. yields a return of between 36 and 46 percent for each dollar invested," Benton told his audience. It would be hard to find a better rate of return on any kind of investment.

The research scientist is the essential element in the pool of knowledge that leads

to new technology, continued Benton. Each research accomplishment represents many hours of tedious and often frustrating effort. Much of this effort goes unheralded, and yet these scientists are dedicated to finding answers which can benefit us all.

The land grant system with its state universities, teaching faculties, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension Service is funded by a unique combination of federal and state monies. And right now it's in trouble because the federal dollars provided for agricultural research have declined sharply in real purchasing value.

"Unfortunately, the agricultural scientist may be an endangered species," he warned, "unless the need for agricultural research is placed in its proper perspective and given greater priority for funding by our tax dollars"—especially at the federal level.

Seed users to air views on Federal Seed Act

Farmers, gardeners, other seed users and members of the seed industry may express their views on the Federal Seed Act at public U.S. Department of Agriculture meetings during September in Memphis, Tenn., and Denver, Colo.

P. R. Smith, assistant secretary of agriculture for marketing and transportation services, will conduct the meetings to review the Federal Seed Act. Both meetings start at 8:00 a.m. The first will be held Sept. 5 at the Holiday Inn, Holiday City, 3728 Lamar St., Memphis, Tenn. The other meeting will take place Sept. 7 at the Social Services Bldg., basement auditorium, 1575 Sherman St., Denver, Colo.

"We are interested in hearing views of seed users and state seed officials on the labeling protection, or lack of it, afforded by the Federal Seed Act and regulations," Smith said. "We also want to hear from the seed industry as to the effect those rules have on their business practices."

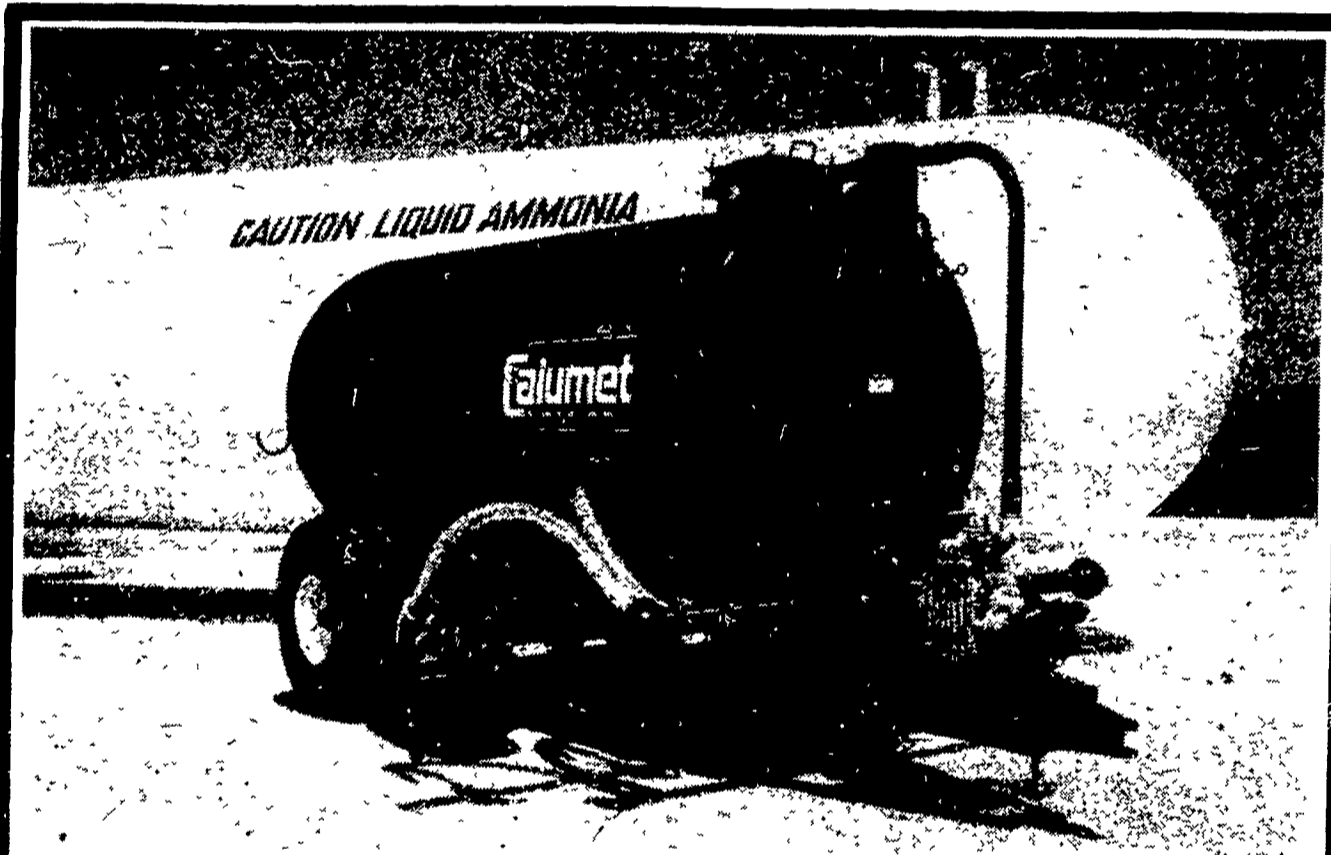
Anyone unable to attend the meetings may express views on the Federal Seed Act by writing to P. R. Smith, assistant secretary for marketing and transportation services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250. All written comments should be received by Sept. 10.

The meetings are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend to make comments may do so. Participants may register by calling or writing Clyde Edwards, Chief, Seed Regulatory Branch, Livestock, Poultry, Grain and Seed Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, Phone (202) 447-9340. Advance registration is not necessary, however.

Comments will be available for public inspection in room 3631-S., USDA, 14th and Independence Ave., Washington, D.C. 20250.

The Federal Seed Act is a truth-in-labeling law that protects farmers and consumers who buy seed that is

sold across state lines or is imported. The department's Agricultural Marketing Service administers the act, with the help of state seed officials who cooperate in making investigations.



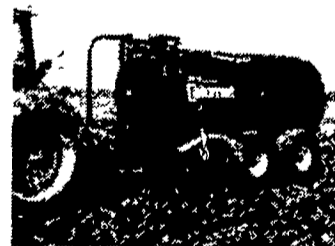
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