

## Md. soybean referendum wins in landslide

ANNAPOLIS — Maryland soybean growers, by an overwhelming majority, have approved a state checkoff program for their commodity.

Eighty-four percent of the farmers voting in the recent referendum approved the idea of a one cent per bushel checkoff for soybeans.

A total of 258 votes was cast. Of those, 218 were for the referendum and 40 were opposed.

With its approval of the checkoff, Maryland became the 21st state to adopt a voluntary contribution program to promote soybeans, conduct research programs, and run soybean education sessions.

Voter turnout was low. Roughly 10 percent of all eligible voters in the state cast ballots. Voting was light to non-existent in Western Maryland, heaviest on the Eastern Shore.

Those who did vote were

mostly the larger growers representing a sizable portion of the acreage planted in Maryland.

The election was conducted by an ad hoc board. The Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association now must nominate a board of directors for the program.

A meeting is scheduled for December 13 to make nominations for the nine farmer positions which are open.

The board is to be farmer

controlled. Three ex officio members, including one representative each from the Maryland Agriculture Department, the Maryland Department of Industry, and the University of Maryland, will sit on the board.

It is likely many of the members on the ad hoc soybean commission will be re-nominated to positions on the permanent board.

The commission also will have to appoint a treasurer. The treasurer will be

required to obtain a bond for \$100,000.

It is possible that deductions for the program could start as early as January 1980.

With Maryland's soybean crop for 1979 projected at 12,000,000 bushels the fund may have as much as \$120,000 available by year's end.

The checkoff of one cent per bushel will be made at first point of sale, most likely

when the farmer sells his beans to the local mill.

Growers who do not want to participate in the program can apply for a refund of money they contributed.

Refund requests must be made at year's end, in writing, to the Maryland Soybean Commission.

The checkoff program will be subject to periodic review and re-approval by the state's soybean growers.—CH

## Erosion survey underway in Chester Co.

WEST CHESTER — If you happen to see someone along a stream or in a field with a clipboard in his hands, he is probably collecting information vital to the future direction of land use and development in Chester County.

Over the next several months, 340 study areas called Primary Sample Units will be investigated in the County.

These Primary Sample Units are 108 acre blocks randomly chosen by computer at the statistical laboratory of Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

This was done to cover the wide spectrum of land uses in the County so that when the study is completed, accurate information will be available on farmland lost to development, the amount of soil lost from County lands per year, problem eroding areas that should be dealt with immediately, and the amount of potential farmland yet to be utilized.

The Chester County Conservation District in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is conducting the soil erosion and sedimentation survey. Field work is being performed by

Daniel Greig, Conservation Aide with the Conservation District and by Samuel High, Soil Conservation Technician with the West Chester Field Office of SCS.

Data collected from the field will be sent to Iowa State University for analysis.

The Chester County Commissioners, Planning Commission and other County agencies will be able to use this information in long range planning and resource conservation activities.

"This study is being conducted concurrently with a similar study in Lancaster County which will affect

some Chester County residents in the Octoraro

Creek drainage basin. So far, both studies have been well received by the public and it is hoped that the good cooperation will continue," said Elbert Wells, District Conservationist for SCS in Chester County.

## Several crop sessions on tap

LANSDALE — Several crops meetings, one for fruit growers the others for field crop farmers, are on tap this month.

The first meeting is the Orchard Management Meeting scheduled for December 13. It gets underway at 9 a.m. at the Schantz Orchard in Lehgh County.

Also on December 13, the Farm Bureau Crops Meeting will be held at the Collegeville Inn, Collegeville, starting at noon.

On December 18 the Berks County Crops Day will be held in Leesport. The following day the Chester County Crops Day will be held.

December 20 marks the Montgomery-Bucks Crops

Day. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 4-H center in Lansdale.

Included on the crops program will be John Yokum, director of the Landisville field research lab, who will talk about research for Southeastern Pennsylvania. He also is slated to discuss small grains varieties and diseases.

Major and micro plant nutrients and non-

conventional additives will be Penn State Agronomist Wayne Hinish's topic.

Penn State Agronomist Bill McClellan will give a herbicide update. Luther Fehnel, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, will talk about the state's fertilizer law.

In addition, there will be a movie on solar power for farms.

The meetings are open to all interested farmers.



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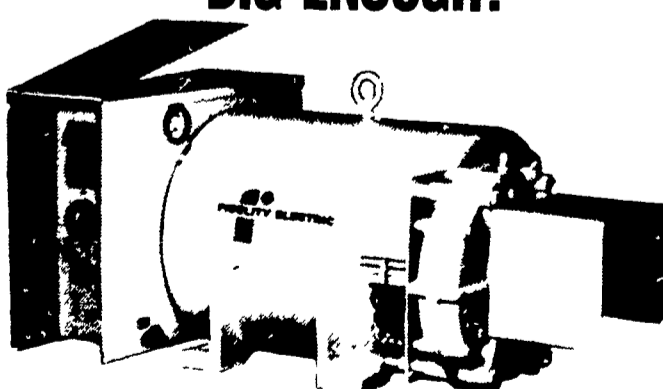
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