

Migrant education conference scheduled

CLARKS SUMMIT - Edward C. Hopkins, Indian Oven Farm, Falls, will be keynote speaker for the initial session of the Eastern Stream Migrant Education Conference/Workshop scheduled February 18-21 at the Holiday Inn, City Line Avenue, Philadelphia.

Active in civic and agriculture affairs for many years, Hopkins is a director and past-president of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association. He serves as a director of the Berwick Vegetable Growers, is president of the Northern Tier Cooperative Extension and a member of the state legislative committee of the Cooperative Extension Association.

Three teachers from northeastern Pennsylvania area will provide a conference session based on "Implementing a Short Term Tutorial Program for Transient Migrants Enrolled in the Regular Term Program." They are Patricia Hopkins Williams, Clarks Summit, coordinator of Migrant Education for Lackawanna, Bradford, Tioga, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Wayne Counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, based in Abington Heights School District, Jeanne Oravec and Carle Welter who are members of the Migrant Education staff.

The program will discuss promotion of continuity in



Edward C. Hopkins

regular term programs and understanding of tutoring techniques to meet the migrant child's educational social and cultural needs.

Williams also will serve as a hostess for the conference, according to Joseph E. Dunn, Migrant Education Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education.

Dunn said that the Eastern Stream Conference/Workshop will feature seventy-one workshop topics of interest to participants and will provide a wide range of information for those persons involved in the education of transitory students each year.

The conference is expected to attract some 1000 people from 21 states and Puerto Rico.

Berks county slates cow-calf series

LEESPORT - Lester A. Burdette, Penn State Extension Animal Scientist, will be one of the featured speakers at three upcoming extension beef meetings on February 18 and 19.

Two beef cow/calf sessions, with identical programs, will be held on both evenings starting at 7:15 p.m.

The February 18th session will be held at the Central Chester Vocational Technical School, and the 19th session will be held at the Allentown Campus of Penn State University.

A beef feeders program will be held at the Berks County Agricultural Center starting at 1:00 p.m. on February 19th.

Burdette, who is a native



LESTER A. BURDETTE of Sharon, received his bachelor, master of science degrees, and doctor of philosophy from Penn State where he majored in animal husbandry.

For more information on these sessions call the Berks County Agricultural Center 215/378-1327.



Brief answers to short questions

Sheila's Shorts

By Sheila Miller

Getting bored at corn meetings?

One of the ever popular subjects at most every corn growers meeting that you go to these days is the elusive European corn borer.

This pesky critter seems to have come over to the U.S. corn fields shortly after the pilgrims landed and has been giving farmers headaches ever since.

So, what do we do about this prolific insect that has improved its reproductive powers and now has two broods of baby borers a year, when 25 years ago it only had one brood a summer.

One strategy you can use in the battle of the borer is chopping corn stalks in the winter time. This knocks the borer larvae, or worm, out of its snug winter quarters it made in the dead stalk last fall. Once evicted so discourteously, the larvae soon dies of exposure.

The time that you fatally err is when they become over anxious to do battle with the bug. They arm themselves with their flail choppers and set to work on mutilating every corn stalk in the field before the frost settles on the pumpkins.

This plan of action might shake the larvae up, and they might lose a few of their ranks, but most of the worms will regroup and muster up the resources to seek out another hiding place to enjoy the winter.

To conquer, you have to out smart the enemy. That means you have to know and understand everything about them: how they live, eat, reproduce, and sleep.

To better understand the European corn borer, realize these cagy creatures rest all winter long as worms. Come springtime and warmer weather, they spin themselves into a moth that earns its wings in early May.

The moths have their mission ahead of them and don't waste any time in starting to repopulate.

They're ruthless enemies they only fly at night.

Each egg which hatches into larvae within 3 to 7 days. The larvae borers immediately begin to strike the young whorl stage corn, gorging themselves for a week.

Now they are sluggish and not as alert to your defense tactics - chemical insecticides.

If not controlled at this point, the borer takes cover in the stalk of the young corn plant, where it eventually wounds the plant, leaving it crippled and ultimately with a dead heart.

As a result, the tops may be blown out of the plants, and it leaves the plant open for disease and rot.

But, if you are scouting your fields for signs of eggs when the corn leaves are about 25 to 40 inches long when stretched out, or when the corn is between calf and knee height, an ambush might be possible.

The egg masses are usually found on the upper

and lower sides of the leaves and at times on the stalk. There are about two to six eggs in each mass. You recognize them because they look like tiny fish scales, and are pale yellow.

If the whorls of the corn show up with shot holes, it means the larvae have already hatched out of the eggs and have started their destructive munching

With an effective assault on the first brood of borers, their second brood will be greatly reduced. That way, in the battle of the borer, you and your corn will be the victor

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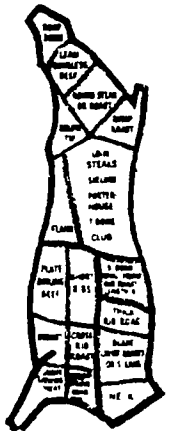
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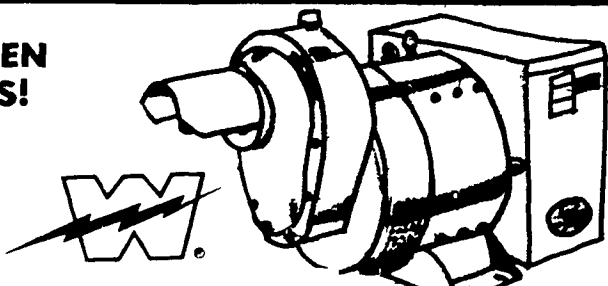
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