

Cecil Co. to hold Dairy/Agronomy Days

COLLEGE PARK — The Cecil County Cooperative Extension Service announces two winter meeting dates.

On Tuesday, February 19, there will be a Dairy Day held at the Calvert Grange Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Joseph Manspeker, D.V.M. from the University of Maryland will give dairymen some pointers on raising replacement heifer calves for their milking herds. He will outline herd health tools that will make raising heifers easier and better. The causes, prevention, and treatment of

mastitis will also be on his list of topics.

Robert Lidums, attorney, will discuss the pros and cons of reorganizing a farm operation. He has had experience working with farmers in setting up partnerships, incorporating, or retaining sole ownership.

Lee Majeskie, dairy specialist, from the University of Maryland, will wrap up the day by leading a panel discussion on various management practices. Panel members will include Joe Ayres, Billy Kilby, Sam Orr, and Ronnie Underwood. Agronomy Day will be

held on February 21 at the same location.

There will be a presentation on the Little North East Watershed project by Dave Wilson, Soil Con-

servation Service and Mollie Ivins, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. They will also provide an update on water quality management.

Trooper Rudy from the North East State Police Barracks will discuss the laws and regulations for farm truck licensing. Other speakers will in-

clude: Allan Bandel, no-till; John Gird, gasohol; Lester Vough, alfalfa management; and Norman Collins, energy used for various tillage systems.

USDA proposes changes in act

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Proposed changes in regulations governing the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act—which would alter the reporting requirement for foreign investors—were announced Monday by Ray Fitzgerald, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural

Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Fitzgerald said one change would raise from five to twenty percent the aggregate foreign interest in a company that would constitute "significant interest or substantial control," and make clear that when regulations refer to a

"combination," they mean only a group of individuals or governments who are acting in concert.

The other change would generally exempt all agricultural, forestry and timber land not exceeding 10 acres in the aggregate from reporting requirements.

However, if products grown on these under-10-

acre tracts yield annual gross sales of more than \$1000, the land must be reported to ASCS, Fitzgerald said.

Comments should be addressed to the administrator, USDA-ASCS, Room 218-W, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

PENN STATE TESTS PROVE AGRISPON WORKS IN PENNSYLVANIA

AGRISPON is a non-toxic, biological soil inoculant that converts nitrogen from the air into nitrate nitrogen in the soil to supply crops with most or all the nitrogen they require for growth and maturation. In addition, AGRISPON multiplies the life in the soil, helps build humus and improves the root structure of plants.

In 1977, the Pennsylvania Fertilizer, Soil Conditioner and Plant Substance Law was passed by the State Legislature. As a result of this Act, AGRISPON and other products were tested by Penn State University to determine their effect on Pennsylvania soils. Below is an outline of the results from these tests conducted in the years 1978-79.

LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS Lab studies conducted by Penn State confirmed that large numbers of viable aerobic micro-organisms were present in AGRISPON. Several nitrate studies on AGRISPON were statistically analyzed and showed that the increases produced by AGRISPON were statistically significant. Results from repeated experimentation showed:

- ★ AGRISPON treated samples increased 31% and 43% in nitrate-nitrogen levels in just 6 days.
- ★ AGRISPON increased nitrate-nitrogen 44.3% and 78% in 15 days.
- ★ AGRISPON increased nitrate levels 33% in lab samples, but showed a slight decrease in soils which had been treated with sewage sludge.

GREENHOUSE EXPERIMENTS - A study using orchard grass on 20 Pennsylvania soils showed that in 14 out of 20 soils, AGRISPON treated samples yielded better than the untreated samples. The overall yield increase was 6.2%. Where nitrogen was used in addition to AGRISPON, the AGRISPON treated plots yielded 3.9% greater than nitrogen alone. In a test on beans, AGRISPON increased the dry weight of the bean samples. Agrispone also increased the average height of the beans.

FIELD TESTS - There was an 11% increase in grain yield where one application of AGRISPON was applied. Side by side, plots showed an increase of 26% in protein where AGRISPON was used. The second application was never applied as it was supposed to have been. The plots were not limed and had a PH range of 5.2 to 7.3. Plots had previously been used for testing the effect of sewage sludge and were not uniform in crop history.

On another side by side plot, AGRISPON treatment showed a 21% greater soil nitrate-nitrogen level and 23% greater protein in the corn.

The above data taken from published and subpoenaed material from Penn State University.

For more information call 717-432-2461

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