

Outdoor computer center to be field day feature

GEORGETOWN, Del. — Have a bright idea on how to improve the economy? Want to find out the cheapest way to feed your cows a balanced ration? Or are you looking for a better way to keep your farm records?

Come to the University of Delaware's Farm and Home Field Day, Wednesday, August 13, at the Georgetown Substation.

This year's annual show and tell event will feature something different—an outdoor computer center. Set up in the farm grove along with other farmer and consumer offerings will be three demonstrations that can provide lots of answers to these questions.

One demonstration at the temporary center will feature extension dairy specialist George Haenlein's

new least-cost feed program for dairymen.

He will show how a portable terminal can be used by Delaware farmers to achieve a balanced dairy ration for their cows, using the cheapest feed sources currently available. The terminal is so flexible that the specialist can take it right into a farmer's kitchen. All that's needed is a telephone to access the University computer.

The second demonstration is being sponsored by agricultural economists at the University of Delaware Ag Experiment Station who have developed a computer model that can predict what impact various changes in the local economy are likely to have on overall employment and income levels in the county.

The model, which is based on a recently completed inter-industry study, can be used to show what would happen, for instance, if farmers changed their production mix in the county and started growing more vegetables and less corn and soybeans.

It can also show which zoning and other land use decisions are most likely to create more jobs and benefit area residents. Though this demonstration probably will have most meaning for people involved in decision making at the local county or state level, it should also be of interest to farmers who take pride in the fact that they contribute so much to the county economy.

Like pebbles in a pond, each local enterprise (farming, light industry, tourism, small business, etc.) creates a ripple in the area's overall economy in terms of jobs created and income generated.

The wider the ripple the greater the benefit from that particular enterprise, explains research associate Sharon Brucker, who helped develop the program.

Farmers who want to improve their record keeping may want to try out the third computer service on display. This is a special farm records program developed by extension ag economist Don Tilmon. He'll be inviting Field Day visitors to sit down at the terminal and try it out.

"In five minutes," he says, "I can show you how to keep your farm records on the computer."

With this system farmers can keep records on field crops, broiler enterprises, on-farm grain drying and storage, as well as other miscellaneous sidelines in which they may be involved.

The program also keeps a complete depreciation schedule using any one of three depreciation

methods—straight line, declining balance and sum-of-years' digits. It keeps a running total of labor used in various farm enterprises and calculates net incomes from them so that a producer can see just which are making him money and which are losing.

The final printout each year becomes the permanent record for that year's business. In time this will provide a series of

complete records for comparison and evaluation.

When the model goes in use later this summer, farmers participating in the program will be able to go into their county extension office and key in their user number into the terminal there and access their own records, which will be stored on the University computer.

Besides these three computer demonstrations, Field Day will feature many

other events, tours and educational exhibits of interest to farmers and consumers.

Activities start at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. with a watermelon break. There will be a traditional fried chicken lunch in the grove at noon. For further information check your local paper or call the county extension office in Newark, Dover, or Georgetown, Delaware.

Feed grain, wheat signup deadline August 1

LANCASTER — Feed grain and wheat farmers are eligible for possible farm program benefits according to Paul B. Kline, Chairman of the Lancaster County ASA Committee.

Grain growers are eligible for price support loans, low yield disaster benefits, and low price insurance (target price concept) the Chairman added.

Farmers in several Pennsylvania counties have received yield loss on wheat and barley due to hail. This may happen to corn and other crops before harvest.

Some counties are very dry and may have low yields due to drought. Farmers who experience a 40 percent yield loss due to natural

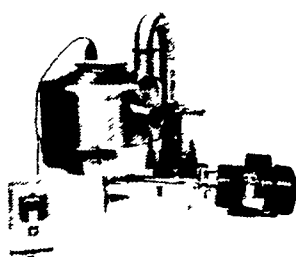
disasters are eligible for low yield payments.

Wheat harvest is here and prices are lower than most farmers would like. Wheat growers are eligible for price support loans at \$2.46 per bushel for the crop if stored on the farm or in a USDA approved warehouse. Prices may be higher later in the year and the wheat can be sold whenever the farmer chooses to do so.

Program eligibility requires that farmers report their crop acreage to ASCS by August 1, 1980.

Chairman Kline urged all farmers to report their acreage. The program provides free insurance against crop failure and commodity prices.

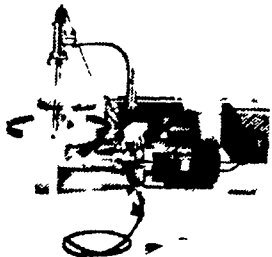
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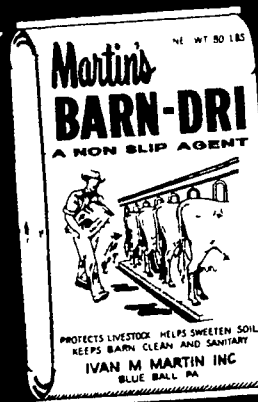
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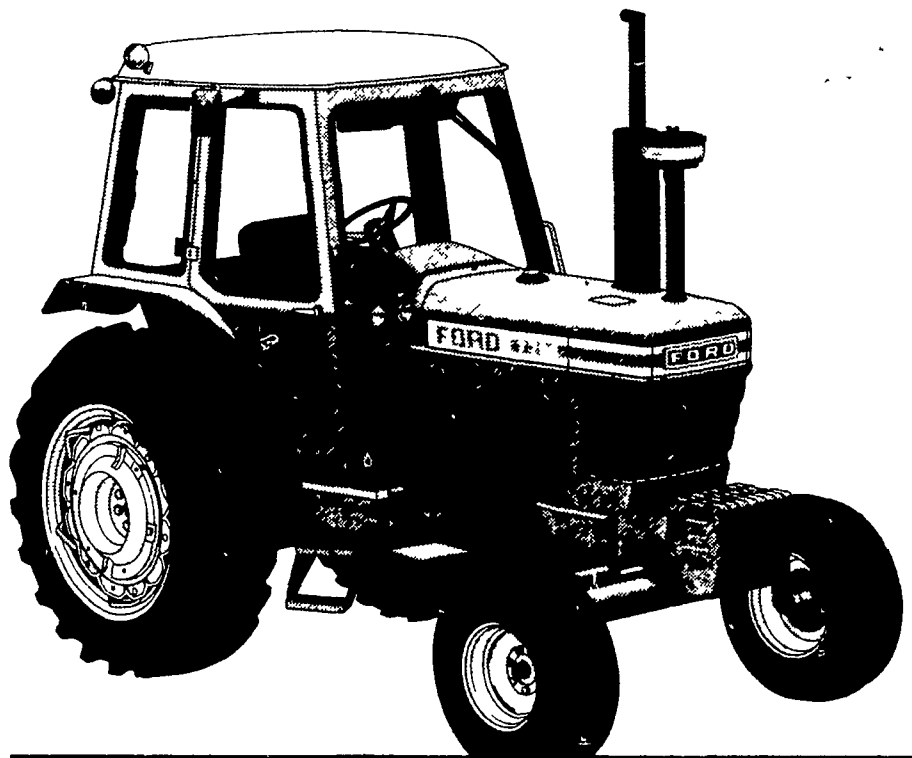
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