

# State governor to join Md. ag days activities

**QUEENSTOWN, Md.** — Governor Harry Hughes will get a first-hand look at agricultural research progress, and talk directly with the producers of Maryland's agriculture, when he rubs shoulders with farmers and university scientists at the Crops and Soils Research Field Day on August 19 at the Wye Research Center.

Governor Hughes and farmers will see experiments aimed at testing new crop varieties for their suitability to Maryland growing conditions. Wagon tours throughout the morning will stop at a field where 124 commercial corn hybrids planted side by side will show how the varieties have responded to the unusually hot and dry

growing season of 1980. Data from small grain variety trials, already harvested, will be presented by research scientists, and soybean variety trials will also be on exhibit.

In addition to the variety plots, visitors will see corn studies in fertility treatments, conventional and no-tillage corn, and weed control. Soybean experiments include double cropping into small grain stubble, fertility, weed control, insect resistance and USDA uniformity and regional tests. Studies are also being conducted on turfgrass, ornamental plants, forestry, sweet corn and strawberries.

The governor will share in a buffet luncheon served under the shade of a big tent

at the campsite overlooking the Wye River. Afterward he will take part in a speaking program and a press conference before touring the research plots.

"We appreciate this opportunity to show the governor and the people of Maryland some of our research findings," says Lamar Harris, director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. "This field day also lets people see the important role that research plays in keeping Maryland agriculture strong and making an important contribution to the state's economy."

Maryland agriculture has remained strong and progressive, it has consistently been a boon to the economy of Maryland. Approximately 17,500 farms in Maryland provide jobs for nearly 32,000 people. In addition to the farms, the agricultural industry includes business firms employing nearly 200,000 people — about 14 percent of the state's work force. These businesses generate economic activity worth 2.3 billion dollars — about 14.2 percent of the gross state product.

Nevertheless, the Maryland farmer faces mounting problems from increased productivity costs and decreasing farmland. It is the goal of the Wye Research Center, and other Centers of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station throughout the state, to aid the farmer in solving current and future production problems, Harris

adds. Research activities at the Wye Research Center are conducted in cooperation with the Wye Institute and Wye Plantation. The annual field day is sponsored by the University of Maryland.

Agricultural Experiment Station with cooperation from the agronomy and horticulture departments in the College of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service and the Wye Institute.

The Wye Research Center is located seven miles southeast of Queenstown on Maryland's Eastern Shore, or 4.5 miles south of U.S. Highway 50, on Carmichael-Wye Neck Road

## Ag preservation

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protection to existing and future agricultural enterprises."

The "Right To Farm" clause states.

That a covenant be placed on the deed (of limited residential development to be permitted in agricultural districts, on which the dwelling is located which states: "The owner and occupant of this tract accepts the nuisances of odors, noise, dust, night operations, and other conditions which are a normal part of farming."

One of the basic questions asked by several farmers concerned how the new regulations would affect their present farms.

It was explained that there are four main new elements

First, there is the basic protection of the right to farm

Second, there are restrictions on the amount of residential development to be permitted in agricultural districts.

And third, there are the regulations involving increasing the setback requirements when an agricultural district adjoins a residential area.

Finally, if and when a property owner in an agricultural district wants to rezone his property to a use other than farming, the matter would automatically be first referred to the county agricultural preserve board to see if it can purchase the property and preserve it for agriculture.

Others concerns were expressed about the definition of the size of a farm. In the initial draft a farm is defined as having a minimum of 10 acres. A

number of farmers thought this was too small a tract and would permit the division of larger tracts, such as a 100-acre farm, into 10 smaller tracts.

It was explained that the initial draft is to be considered a starting point for the pioneering legislation. The planning commission and supervisors will now consider the opinions expressed at the meeting, along with any other that residents of the township may wish to express.

Some discussion was also conducted on the county's role in ag preservation. Likely, a referendum vote will be considered when planning proceeds to the point where the county must consider ways to finance possible purchases.

In the meantime, Ephrata Township will proceed with consideration of its revised agricultural district zoning regulations —DA

## Safety seminar to cover grain blasts

**DELMAR, Md.** — During the past two decades at least 270 massive explosions in grain handling and feed milling operations have taken 173 lives and caused hundreds of injuries in the U.S. These statistics do not include the thousands of lesser explosions that have occurred in smaller facilities and on farms.

To focus attention on this problem and the need for fire prevention measures, an all-day safety seminar is planned for Wednesday, August 20, at the Del-Mar-Va Convention Hall on Route 13 in Delmar, Maryland. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and the program will conclude at 4 p.m.

fire hazards, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, and fire codes.

Speakers from key positions in industry, government, trade associations and the insurance field will discuss dust explosion research, current statistics, and answer specific questions.

The \$10 registration will cover luncheon, coffee breaks, and an educational packet.

For registration information contact Ron Jester, extension safety specialist, at 302/856-5250.

The seminar is sponsored jointly by the Delaware and Maryland Extension Services, assisted by the Eastern Shore Grain and Feed Dealers Assoc., and the Delaware State Fire School Mill managers, grain elevator operators, safety personnel, maintenance supervisors, contractors and insurance representatives are encouraged to attend.

The seminar will explore the causes of explosions in grain handling and feed milling operations, and help industry personnel and farm operators understand and solve problems related to

## ACP funding

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lop the \$50 million off the ACP appropriation.

The conservation program is a USDA discretionary effort, which means it can be cut when mandated outlays continue to go toward legislated programs, such as food stamps.

It was explained that about a couple of billion dollars must be made up in the overall federal budget because of pay increases voted for both civilian and military personnel under the defense budget.

One USDA official characterized the current budget cut talk as the normal federal fiscal jockeying.

Also, there's talk that Sen. Thomas Eagleton, chairman of the Senate Ag Appropriations Subcommittee will launch an effort on Monday to restore the conservation program budget to its original status.

The Pennsylvania State Grange has been in touch with the office of Sen. Richard Schweiker and has been assured that he will back the funds restoration.

Another possible solution is that those budgets being cut will be restored by enabling legislation after the November election —DA



New proposed agricultural district zoning regulations for Ephrata Township are explained to farmers attending public hearing in Lincoln Fire Hall. Approximately 20 percent of farmers to be affected attended the session.

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