

New farmers

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Shipp informed the group about the benefits of testing the soil on the farm for nutrient levels, and he introduced the group to the soil survey report which identifies the types of soils in the state.

The importance of knowing the soil type was pointed out by John Baylor, also of Penn State's agronomy department. He encouraged the new farmers to adapt the crops to be grown to the type of crops the soils will support. Limiting factors, such as depth and drainage, will have an impact on the crop

and variety selection, he stated.

Baylor also recommended the use of certified seed of improved varieties, noting the cost of the seed is 4 percent of the planting costs per acre.

He pointed out that the largerkerneled seeds can be mismanaged more because they have a larger food storage and will probably survive if planted too deep. However, this is not the case with the smaller seeds. As a rule of thumb, Baylor said "never place seed any deeper than five times its diameter."

Baylor advised the new

PARK RIDGE — recently announced bilateral four-year grain agreement between the U.S. and mainland China. The agreement -- negotiated between the U.S. government and the People's Republic of China -- calls for the U.S. to export six to nine million metric tons of grain to China each year of the agreement. "Even without the agreement, China is said to have already purchased 10

million metric tons of grain in 1979 and more than nine million on in 1978," Delano said.

He added that government involvement in international trade agreements injects government management into what should be private trade business, and could mean that the U.S. will never reach the full potential for sale of agricultural commodities in the Chinese market.

"Farm Bureau members are greatly disturbed about the apparent trend toward government domination of international trade in farm commodities, including the

recent U.S.-Mexico agreement whereby sales are to be made through the Commodity Credit Corporation," Delano said.

"It has been argued that China is unique. This can be said to be true of every country," he added, saying, government-to-government trade is wrong in principle. For U.S. farmers it represents a step away from the free market.

"A proliferation of bilateral sales agreements could lead to greater and greater government involvement in the marketing of grain," Delano concluded.

farmers to lime and fertilize their crop fields for yields and persistence. "In Pennsylvania, 75 percent of the crop growth problems are related to soil acidity."

Samuel Dum, Penn State's professor of farm management extension pointed out another major problem in making a living in farming — budgeting problems.

He said five areas where new farmers make mistakes in budgeting are:

- having inadequate resources to make a living (not enough land);
- using the available resources incorrectly (trying to grow the wrong crop);
- underemployment of resources (cows not milking up to potential);
- lack of technical knowledge;

—and, not having a satisfactory business and home environment.

With a general taste of what farming is all about, and what it takes to get into the various enterprises being covered in two 45 minute sessions, the new farmers walked away from the first course of its kind to be offered in the state with mixed emotions.

They learned from the Veterinary School's John Fetrow about the benefits of employing the expertise of local veterinarians and what it could cost them if they didn't spend money on professional animal health care.

The new farmers will probably long remember the advice given by Penn State's Clair Engle. "You can always take advantage of the appreciated land prices and sell out."

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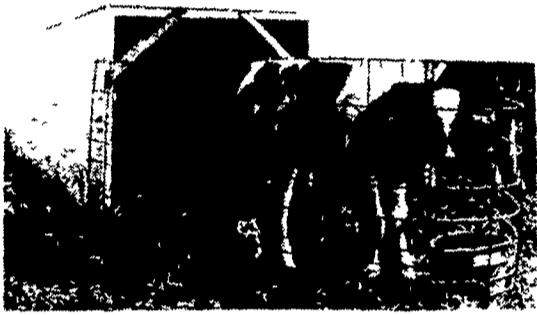


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Broiler placements

increase 17%

HARRISBURG — Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending October 18 were 2,229,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The placements were 17 percent above the corresponding week a year earlier, and three percent above the previous week. Average placements during the past nine weeks were 11 percent above a year ago.

Placements in the 21 key poultry producing states were 76,602,000, seven percent above the previous

week and five percent above the same week a year earlier. Average placements in the 21 states during the past nine weeks were one percent above a year ago.

Broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania federal inspection during the week ending October 8 totaled 1,532,000, with an average liveweight of 3.94 pounds.



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