

## Research needs

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tors among animal and human pathogens; to eliminate contamination of food products by pathogens and toxic substances.

Biological engineering — research involving latest developments in molecular biology, to improve efficiency of protein synthesis; to control body fat deposition; to improve digestion of cellulose by animal gut microflora; to promote reproductive efficiency.

Systems research — research on the complex problems facing animal agriculture, employing a comprehensive, multidisciplinary systems approach; sophisticated tools of space research, such as mathematical programming and electronic instrumentation, should be applied to animal agriculture.

In addition, research knowledge can assist policy makers who must deal with global events or domestic concerns.

Events, such as climate change, OPEC embargoes and Middle East conflicts, contribute to future economic uncertainty and

food supply and price instabilities.

"A top priority research effort is needed to develop and evaluate alternative national strategies for dealing with sudden and important shocks to the world food system," the Task Force said.

Concerns for safety and environmental questions have diverted — often unintentionally — available research resources from production and nutrition efforts. Many regulations needlessly inhibit the efficient use of resources and raise costs to consumers, the Task Force explained.

Research can provide guidance on such issues and lead to more responsible regulatory policies.

"Animal agriculture has been taken for granted for too long. We have produced what we needed, efficiently, and at good value to consumers. But can we continue, given increasingly scarce resources? In Japan, beef sells for \$20 per pound. It could happen here," Fitzhugh warned.

Principal sponsors of the conference included the American Association for

LANCASTER — First-hand observations of no-tillage farming on the ancient lands of China will be featured during the 7th Annual Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference to be held January 8 at the Host Farm

the Advancement of Science, American Dairy Science Association, American Meat Science Association, American Society of Animal Science, Association of American Veterinary Colleges, Michigan State University's Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine, Poultry Science Association, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Winrock International Livestock Research and Training Center.

In addition, state agricultural experiment stations, colleges of veterinary medicine, and national livestock organizations also supported the conference.

## Chinese no-till among topics at January meeting

Resort west of Lancaster, on U.S. Route 30.

Describing Chinese tillage from "super-till to no-till" will be William H. Hinton of Fleetwood, author of five books on China and consultant to the Chinese government. Hinton has practiced no-till cropping on his own farm and tells Chinese officials and peasants alike, "the less tillage the better."

Tickets for the Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference are available from county agents only in the six states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

No tickets will be sold at the door, says general chairman Donald J. Overdorff, county agent in Cumberland County. Capacity crowds of 1000 farmers and industry personnel attend annually. The event is sponsored by the colleges of agriculture in the

six states, in cooperation with agribusiness firms.

Program speaker Hinton says the Chinese have used no-tillage practices for centuries — for example, by seeding beans in wheat stubble. The Chinese still use many primitive no-tillage methods such as planting corn in young wheat by making a hole with a stick and dropping a seed.

The No-Till Conference will include a panel of farmers discussing no-till drilling of alfalfa and small grains versus conventional seeding. The panel will include Fred McGilvray of Newville, Pa., E. Kenneth Stonesifer of Still Pond, Md., and Bruce S. Berkey of State College, Pa. Moderating the panel will be Lynn D. Hoffman, Penn State agronomist.

Registration at 8 a.m. opens the January 8 event. Morning topics start at 9:30 with "Spray It Yourself," presented by Donald R.

Daum, agricultural engineer at Penn State. Glover B. Triplett, agronomist from Ohio State University, will discuss "Tillage and Agricultural Challenges." S.H. Phillips, crops specialist at the University of Kentucky, will speak on "Managing No-Till for the Future."

The afternoon program will begin at 1.30 on the topic, "Stalk Borer Control," presented by Stanley G. Gesell, entomologist from Penn State. William H. Mitchell, University of Delaware agronomist, will describe "Energy Requirements of No-Till Versus Conventional Tillage." "No-Tillage Under Stress Conditions" will be the topic of V. Allan Bandel, agronomist from the University of Maryland.

The Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference will include numerous educational and commercial exhibits by agricultural firms

## Named honorary county agent



Rolland Herring, right, of Chalkhill, Fayette County, has been named an Honorary County Agent by the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents. Presenting the award, an inscribed bullskin, are C.M. Skillington, left, Elk County Extension director and state association president; and Leslie N. Firth, Mercer County Extension director and president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Herring was cited for his contributions to Penn State's extension service through his work as an office in the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperative Extension Associations.

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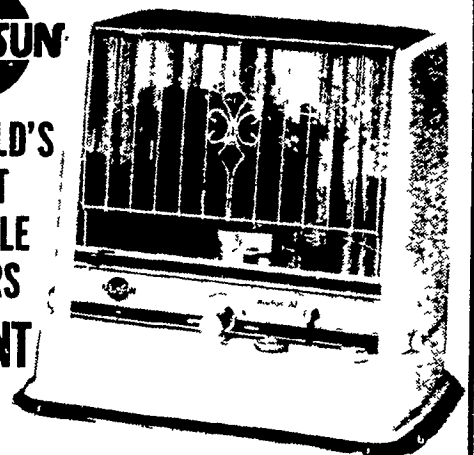
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