

# Berks Extension calendar fills with dairy and livestock seminars

**LEESPORT** — A dairy nutrition school has been set for Jan. 26 and 27 at the Berks County Agricultural Center. Sponsored by the Berks County Cooperative Extension Service and Berks County Feed Companies, the course is designed to expand dairy farmers knowledge in the basics of dairy nutrition.

The program offers the following topics for Wednesday Jan. 26; Animal Nutrition - What Is It? discussed by Clyde Myers, Berks Co. Agent; Do You Know Your Feedstuffs? discussed by Nick Kohut, Albright Mill, and Jerry Zubey, Agway; Use of Alternative Feeds - and What Does A Cow Need? by Richard Adams, Penn State Extension Dairy Nutritionist; and Energy, Dry Matter, and Feed Intake by Carl Brown, Browns Feeds.

Thursday's program offers: Anatomy of the Digestive Tract - and Metabolic Disorders discussed by Dr. Duane Kennedy, Willow Creek Animal Hospital; Digestion and Absorption by Adams, and panel on Our Nutrition Program. The dairymen panel includes: Frank Borkey, Sinking Spring; Stephen Janos, Centerport; Kenny Sanner, Kutztown; Forest Stricker, Wernersville; and Ken Wolfskill, Bernville.

Reservations are needed by Jan. 21. For more information contact Clyde Myers at the Berks County Agricultural Center, Leesport, Pa. 19533, (215) 378-1327. Cost of the school is \$16.00 which includes lunch, handbook summarizing each topic and other program materials.

Beef farmers have an opportunity to attend the two beef programs sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service in Southeast Pennsylvania.

On Monday, Jan. 25 at Risser's Restaurant Rt. 422 Stouchsburg, the program will start at 5:30 p.m. with coffee and commercial exhibits. A beef barbecue dinner will follow at 6:00 p.m.

The educational part of the program begins at 7 p.m. when Lou Moore, Penn State Extension economist will discuss "The Future Outlook" and "Marketing Through Hedging." Les Burdette, Penn State Ext. Animal Scientist

will then talk about "What Kind of Cattle Should I Feed" and "Low Cost Feed Storage".

A panel of beef feeders will discuss, "How to Maximize Profits and Minimize Losses in Today's Economic Climate." The panel includes Harold Dietrich, Richland; Dennis Manbeck, Robesonia; and Robert Miller, Lebanon. The program will conclude with a question and answer period. For reservations by Jan. 21 contact Clyde Myers.

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, a beef cow and calf program will take place. Starting at 7:00 p.m. the meeting will be held at the Berks-Lehigh Farm Credit Service, Rt. 100, Fogelsville. At 7 p.m. coffee and donuts will be served as producers get a chance to meet the speakers.

To start the program, Clair Engle, Penn State Extension animal scientist will discuss "Management of the Cow/Calf Herd Placing Emphasis on Reproductive Performance". "Pasture Management and the use of Warm Season Grasses and Brassica's" will then be discussed by Gerald Jung, from the U.S. Regional Pasture Research Laboratory. The program will close with a question and answer period. No reservation is needed for this program.

Berks County Extension Service invites all dairy farmers to their annual Dairy Day on Feb. 7 at the Berks County Agricultural Center. The agenda offers topics which are important in today's economic climate. Reservations \$3/person are required by Feb. 2.

The program begins at 8:45 a.m. with coffee, donuts and commercial exhibits. Steve Spencer, Penn State Extension dairy specialist will then discuss "Stray Voltage - Is It a Problem". "How to Make Money Producing Milk" will be discussed by Fred Hughes, Penn State Extension farm management specialist. "Coping with Stress" discussed by Diane Brown, Southeast Regional Ext. Home Economist will follow. Just before lunch Spencer will talk about "Milking Equipment".

After lunch a producer panel will discuss "How I Handle My Mastitis Problems and Lowering

My Somatic Cell Count". The panel includes: Donald Burkholder, Bernville; Glen Seidel, Womelsdorf; Leonard Stoltzfus, Douglassville; and Ken Wolfskill, Bernville.

Berks County swine farmers will want to attend two upcoming swine days on Feb. 9 and 10.

Kutztown Grange Hall will be the site of the meeting on Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. with coffee and donuts.

The educational program is as follows: "Update vaccinations and Antibiotics" by Dr. Larry Hutchinson, Penn State Extension veterinarian; "Avoiding Financial Difficulties In Your Swine Operation" by Harry Schaffer, Berks County Agent; Producer panel discussing "Improving Your Swine Facilities" - Panel members include Steve Burkholder, Fleetwood; Dennis Cooper; Kempton; Wilbur Lutz, Sinking Spring; and Amos Hoover,

Adamstown. Just before a Pork Barbeque Lunch, Mat Parsons, Penn State Extension swine specialist will give an "Update on Swine Facilities."

After lunch Parsons will discuss "Factors which Affect Meat Quality". A producer panel will then discuss "How I Maintain Foundation Stock." Panel members include: Mike Moore, Reading; Ray Meyers, Lancaster; and Herb Schick, Kutztown. Hutchinson will then discuss "Diseases Which Affect Foundation Stock".

On Thursday, Feb. 10 the meeting will be held at the Marion Fire Company, Couchsburg at 9 a.m. The educational program is as follows: Parsons will talk about "New Concepts in Swine Feeding", followed by a producer panel discussing "Why I Feed Haylage". Panel members include: Phil Fireling, Schuylkill; Jim Groff, Lancaster and Mike Hartman,

Bernville. Hutchinson will then discuss "Today's Vaccines" followed by "Evaluating Sow Production" with Parsons.

A producer panel will then discuss "How I Evaluate My Sows!" Panel includes: Leon Arnold, Lebanon, Mel Huber, Frystown; and Leon Hoover, Middlecreek. Following a Pork Barbeque Lunch, Parsons will discuss "Whats New In The Swine Industry."

Dr. George Landis, Regional PDA Veterinarian will then discuss "Swine Identification." "Producers Responsibilities - Animal Rights" will then be discussed by Hutchinson. Parsons will then discuss "Reproductive Efficiency and AI" followed by a question and answer program.

Both meetings require registration. Cost is \$3.00/meeting as deadline is Feb. 4. For more information contact Clyde Myers.

## Wage earner plan is alternative to bankruptcy

**NEWARK, Del.** — If you are in a financial crisis and have decided to file for bankruptcy, a better solution might be the Wage Earner Plan, which is Chapter 13 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Act.

The major advantage of Chapter 13 is that you can keep your assets, including your home and car. You pay off your debt according to a plan set up with your lawyer and reviewed by the court. The Wage Earner Plan runs for a period of up to three years, says Delaware Extension family living agent Mary Alice Morris.

If your creditors feel that fraud or misleading information is involved, they have the option of objecting to the plan before it is accepted by the court. Usually it is to their advantage to agree to the plan.

The plan remains in effect as long as you make the payments according to the established schedule. If you miss payments, the plan will be dismissed by the court.

The last resort is filing for bankruptcy, says Morris. This means giving up certain assets in return for legal release from certain debts.

The bankruptcy process includes preparing and filing a petition, meeting creditors in a federal court to resolve their claims, and appointing a court trustee to collect and sell your possessions at public auction so the proceeds can be distributed among the creditors. Certain assets cannot be taken from you. Social security and veteran's benefits are two sources of income exempted by federal law.

Some household goods, your

personal goods (such as clothing), and professional or job-related tools are often excluded from the bankruptcy sale.

Certain debts are not dischargeable, including taxes, alimony, and child support.

Consider bankruptcy only after you have explored every other alternative, Morris says. Remember, the bankruptcy record remains part of your credit rating for up to 10 years.

## Fusarium blight hits soybeans

**NEWARK, Del.** — Cases of Fusarium blight on Delaware-grown soybeans are becoming more frequent and more serious. Since the soilborne fungus disease was first observed in the state in 1977, some farmers have seen only minor damage from it. But others have suffered severe yield losses.

Because of his concern over its spread, Robert Carroll, plant pathologist at the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station, has been conducting research on Fusarium blight of soybeans. Several of his graduate students also have been studying aspects of the problem. Carroll and Extension plant

pathologist Bob Mulrooney recently prepared a fact sheet based on this research and Mulrooney's field observations. Both scientists feel growers need to become familiar with symptoms of the disease so that they can take steps to control it. The publication describes these symptoms and outlines cultural practices to minimize outbreaks.

Copies of the fact sheet, "Fusarium Blight of Soybeans in Delaware," are available from county Extension offices in Newark 302/738-2506, Dover 302/736-1448 and Georgetown 302/856-5250.

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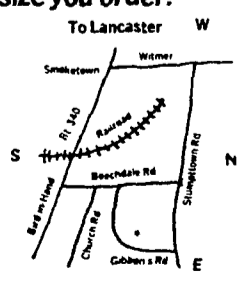
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**HAVING SOIL PROBLEMS?**  
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