

Pork Producer seminar

LANCASTER — The Progressive Pork Producers Seminar, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council in cooperation with Penn State Extension Service, will be held Thursday at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Developing an Economical Herd Health Program will be the theme of this year's seminar. The session will include Tom Stein, D.V.M. of the University of Minnesota, discussing "Strategies for Developing Herd Health Programs" and "Evaluating Herd Health Programs." John P. Hurtgen, D.V.M., Ph.D., of New Freedom, will present information about "Reproductive Problems - Approach to Swine Herd Problems" to participants. Robert Graybill, D.V.M., Lancaster, will

share his observations on "Common Problems on Pennsylvania Hog Farms" with those attending. The subject of "Diarrheal Diseases in Hogs" will be covered by Bruce Beachnau, D.V.M. from the Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

This program is designed for swine producers and allied industry personnel. Pre-registration is requested. The cost of this program will be \$20 per farm and \$30 per allied industry. This price includes one lunch, but additional lunches are available for \$5 each if more than one person per firm is attending. Anyone who desires more information on this program or pre-registration forms should contact their local County Agent or Matt Parson, Penn State Extension Swine Specialist at 814-863-3671.

Soils experts to visit U. of Del.

NEWARK, Del. — University of Delaware students of soil chemistry and fertility have an unusual opportunity to work with leading experts in the field this semester. College of agricultural Sciences faculty members Donald Sparks and J. Thomas Sims have invited six internationally prominent soil experts to lecture to their classes, discuss research problems, and present formal seminars to the university community and public at large. The visits are scheduled throughout the spring semester.

Malcolm Sumner, professor of soil fertility at the University of Georgia, and Pa Ho Hsu, professor of soil chemistry at Rutgers University, will each spend a day at Delaware under a grant from

the university's Center for Teaching Effectiveness. Sumner, a native of south Africa, has researched the problems of acid soil infertility and has been an agricultural consultant to Israel, New Zealand, and Tunisia. Hsu, a native of Taiwan, has worked to improve crop production in tropical areas where soil content is high in aluminum and iron.

The other four guest lecturers, whose visits are sponsored by the university's Title XII office, are A.W. Taylor, chief of the Soil Nitrogen and Environmental Chemistry Laboratory at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center; E.J. Kamprath, distinguished professor of soil fertility and chemistry at North

Carolina State University; R.E. Simonson, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's soil survey staff; and P.M. Huang, professor of soil chemistry at the University of Saskatchewan.

All of the visiting experts will discuss the nature and extent of agricultural problems worldwide, and will direct students toward areas of research that will facilitate solutions.

For further information on the colloquium contact Sims or Sparks at 738-2531.

Stored corn goes bad in bins all across Iowa

Pd. Adv.

By JERRY PERKINS
Register Agribusiness Writer

Corn, which is being stored on Iowa farms in record quantities, is sprouting and molding in bins across the state, Iowa State Extension officials say.

In his 25 years with the extension service, Larry Van Fossen says he has never had as many calls in January about grain going bad as he has had this month.

"The contacts I'm getting this January (about bad grain) I usually don't have until April," Van Fossen said. "In 25 years I've never had the complaints from the field or reports from county extension offices that I've had this year."

Sorrel Brown, crop production specialist for the Des Moines area extension office, said she's had reports that corn has sprouted in some central Iowa bins. Grain at that stage is lost, she said.

Three-quarters of the 1.9 billion bushels of corn on hand in Iowa is stored on farms, according to the latest figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Corn stored under the government's reserve and loan programs account for 556 million bushels of that.

Since the government plans to give most of that corn to farmers who idle corn ground next year under the payment-in-kind program, the condition of corn in the bin is more crucial than ever. To be acceptable to the government for crop swap, corn must be in good condition.

Van Fossen and Brown said this year's problems with stored grain are occurring because wet weather in the spring delayed planting and many farmers were forced to harvest corn with a higher moisture content than usual.

In western Iowa, some farmers reported harvesting corn with moisture contents of 32 to 36 percent, compared with the usual 22 to 24 percent. Adding to the problem were record propane prices last fall, which might have influenced some farmers to skimp on drying their corn or to use low-temperature, natural-air drying.

Brown and Van Fossen say low-temperature drying works, but only if the corn is drier than 22 percent. "Low-temperature drying

is an excellent system — if it's managed properly," Van Fossen said. "But it's a lousy system if the corn is wetter than about 22 percent."

Added Brown: "There's no way low-temperature drying can bring corn down to (the 15 or 13 percent needed for one- and three-year storage, respectively) when it's harvested at 32 to 36 percent. We're talking about leaving the fan on for six to eight weeks. Most farmers think three to four weeks sounds like a long time."

The only way to know if grain is keeping well is to climb into the bin and check it, Brown and Van Fossen say. They recommend checking grain every two weeks in the winter and weekly in warm weather.

By feeling the surface of the grain, Brown says, farmers can check for warmth or crusting — conditions which indicate "hot spots" are developing.

The temperature of the grain should be taken and recorded. Every time there is a four- or five-degree temperature rise, the grain should be checked again in three or four days. If the temperature has climbed that much again, the fan should be run, Brown said.

Whenever the fan is turned on, the air coming out of the bin should be checked for musty or moldy odors, Brown and Van Fossen say. If the air smells moldy or musty, the grain should be aerated more. If the grain smells sour, it is too late. The grain is spoiled, and should be moved out, according to Brown.

Moving the grain might be a big job, Van Fossen said, "But farmers have to realize it's better to move the corn, or even sell it at this lousy price, than to let it spoil and lose more."

Said Brown: "If they have a 3,000-bushel bin full of corn, that adds up to over \$6,000 worth of corn. I tell them to imagine that they've got that bin full of 10- and 20-dollar bills totaling \$6,000. Then I ask them how often they would check the bin if they had that money in there. Everybody says they'd be out there every day."



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