

Crop associations

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planning with the county extension office and Penn State, 10 farmers designated 2000 acres for survey purposes and hired their first technician to take soil samples and aid in crop planning. Since then, the program has grown to 9000 acres and a second employee is expected to be hired July.

Brown likened the program to the Dairy Herd Improvement Association because the CCCIA is also a farmer owned and operated organization. Also, a service is provided by the technician, at the farm, not in the office.

Similar to the DHIA tester, the technician's responsibilities include sampling the soils in each field and keeping an eight-year record of the field. The amounts of fertilizer, lime and herbicides or pesticides applied to that field are recorded.

During the summer months the technician visits the farm each week to check for weeds, insects and disease. By winter, the technician frequents the farm every other week and recommends a cropping program for the coming spring.

Several farmers have found that they are spending less money for fertilizer and spray and getting better yield from their acres since the program was implemented.

Four members of the CCCIA, who individually grow about 250

acres of alfalfa, reported that they did not use any chemical measures to control potato leafhopper in 1980 because fields were monitored. They figured that two applications of spray would have cost them \$7.50 per acre, which amounted to a \$3,750 savings among them.

Most other members reported that they sprayed their alfalfa crop once, but that if their crops hadn't been monitored, they would have sprayed twice. Collectively they realized a savings of about \$14,500 in spray alone.

One member reported that he treated 175 acres of corn for rootworm during 1980, but because of monitoring fields, he would only need to treat 15 acres in 1981.

Another farmer found that he harvested three times the amount of corn in 1980 as compared to 1979, which he credits to the technician's advice.

Al Homan, Extension Agent in Bradford County, reported that farmers are similarly pleased with their Sulbra Crop Management Association which has been operational for one year.

Homan also anticipates eventually adding a computer at the Extension Office to aid technicians in their eight-year planning schedule. Eventually there may be a tie-in with Penn State's computer, but for now, he is concerned with presenting a quality program at the county level.

Ag Progress dates set

UNIVERSITY PARK — August 23 to 25 are the dates for Penn State's annual Ag Progress Days, to be held at the Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center, 9 miles southwest of State College on Route 45W.

Demonstrations will include machinery, field and forage crops, livestock and dairy cattle, and conservation practices. Tours will

show research plots, family living and youth activities, and theatre programs. Educational and commercial exhibits will be featured.

The theme for 1983 is "Agriculture—Growing for You." Contact person: Joseph D. Harrington, 432 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, Pa. 16802.

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