

## PACMA offers dried distillers grain

CAMP HILL — A new source of dairy, cattle, hog and poultry feed is now available to farmers exclusively through PACMA, the marketing cooperative of the

Pennsylvania Farmers Association (PFA).

Keith Eckel, president of the voluntary, statewide farm organization, said, "PFA is proud

to announce that its cooperative, PACMA, has obtained exclusive rights to distribute dried distillers grain with solubles from the South Point Ethanol Plant in South Point,

Ohio. Dried distillers grain with solubles is recognized by dairymen, feed mills and extension specialists as being a superior feed because of its concentration of vitamins, minerals and fat and its greater availability of the cow's digestive system."

Eckel added, "Because its supply was previously unreliable, dried distillers grain with solubles was usually fed only to higher producing dairy cows. Now, as a result of our special arrangement with one of the largest ethanol plants in the world, a steady, year-round supply will be available to Pennsylvania farmers through PACMA.

"Dried distillers grain is the product remaining after ethanol is extracted from corn for use as a gasohol. The solubles are a molasses-like distiller by-product that is added to the distillers grain, making it a more valuable feed."

Eckel said, "the product PACMA will be distributing will

have a guaranteed analysis with not less than 25% crude protein; not less than 8.0% crude fat; not more than 8.5% crude fiber and a TDN of approximately 78%. Feeding trials have proven that 26% distillers grain is nearly equivalent to 44% soybean meal, especially in feeding cattle because of a higher rumen by-pass value. When compared, pricewise, distillers grain will cost less per ton in most months."

Comparing it with brewer's grain, Eckel said, "Distillers grain has a more consistent quality than brewer's grain because corn is the sole source of input. There are no hops or other products added as in the brewing industry."

Dried distillers grain with solubles will be available from PACMA in bulk, usually in 20-22 ton truckloads.

For more information contact PACMA at (717) 761-2740. In western Pennsylvania, contact Dwight Allshouse at (412) 353-9160.

## Controlling chickweed in strawberries

NEWARK, Del. — Strawberry lovers have already begun to anticipate the first ripe fruit of the season, even though winter is far from over. Midwinter is also the time for commercial growers to start anticipating weed problems, because there's still plenty of time to prevent or correct them in strawberry fields.

Many good herbicides are available for use in strawberries, says University of Delaware extension county agent Bob Hochmuth. Knowing the history of a field can help in choosing the right ones to eliminate specific weeds.

Chickweed, a winter annual, is often neglected until too late in the spring, he says. Most herbicides used in strawberries are pre-emergence materials which must be applied before weeds germinate. Chickweed germinates in the fall and exists as a young plant through the winter.

Existing chickweed can be controlled if the right materials

are used properly, Hochmuth says. Tenoran or Norex both have postemergent activity on this pest at any stage. For best results, apply early while the weed is still small. Don't apply more than twice a season, or within 60 days of harvest. Tenoran is very weak on grasses, so a good grass herbicide must be added for control. Recommended rates are 6 to 8 pounds per acre of either Tenoran or Norex.

Sinbar is another herbicide which will control chickweed. This material gives broad spectrum control of both broadleaf and grass weeds. To control established chickweed, apply it when the weed is small — 2 inches or less. Extreme caution should be taken if using Sinbar, the agent says. Do not use it on coarse or sandy soils with less than 2 percent organic matter. And don't plant any crop other than alfalfa, blueberries, apples or strawberries within two

years after an application. Labeled rates for Sinbar are ½ to ¾-pound of product per acre. Use lower rates on light soils.

Other herbicides available for use in strawberries include Dacthal, Enide and Devrinol. Each must be applied to weed-free soil and will not affect existing weeds. Check the label of each product carefully for proper use and possible sensitivity of certain strawberry varieties.

For more information on weed control and other cultural problems of field-grown strawberries, producers are advised to consult 1984 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations.



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## Now is the Time to Seed Your Lawn

If you missed seeding bare and thin spots in the lawn last Fall, you will have a second chance as snow retreats. Late winter, when the soil freezes and thaws frequently, is the time for frost seeding.

A critical factor in successful lawn seeding is soil-seed contact. Lawn seed sown now will, in effect, be planted for you by the action of alternate freezing and thawing on the soil surface. Then, when the soil temperature warms up sufficiently, the seeds will germinate, getting an early start and increasing the probability that the seedlings will survive the weeds and heat to come.

To make frost seeding succeed,

remove any organic debris that is on the soil surface. Then sow seed uniformly over the spot. If you do this early in the day when the soil is still "honey comed" from the night's freeze, the seed will begin to be worked into the soil as it thaws later in the day.

It is not too early for a reminder about lawn feeding. Although the weather during March may make it difficult to get at this important job, the first fertilizer application should go on then so that nutrients are available when the grass is in active spring growth. The second application will be made in September when the lawn is again in active growth after the unfavorable conditions of summer.

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