

Now is the Time

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To Prepare

For Soybean Planting

Soybeans should be planted in warm moist soil. A thermometer will help you decide when is the best planting date. Special bayonet type thermometers work very well.

The ideal soil temperature is about 62°F. The reading should be taken at about 8:00 a.m. when the soil temperature is stabilized. The thermometer should be inserted at least two inches in the soil.

Many people planting soybeans will either end up with too many plants per acre or too few. This will happen because they will use the pounds per acre philosophy which won't work for soybeans. Because the soybean seed differs greatly in size, this also means they differ greatly in number of seeds per pound. For example, one variety may average 2100 seeds per pound while another variety averages 3100 seeds per pound — that's a difference of 1000 seeds per pound. So, if you plant a bushel of seed with 85% germination, that's a difference of about 48,000 plants per acre.

The only way to plant beans is by seeds per foot of row. If a grain drill is used, three beans per foot or row is plenty. If a 30-inch corn row is used 8 to 9 beans per foot is about right.

Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page A10)

Southeast Codorus Watershed Conservation Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m., Springfield Township Bldg.

Thursday, May 10

Wayne County Extension farm microcomputer meeting, 8 p.m., Extension meeting room, Courthouse, Honesdale.

Friday, May 11

Pa. Egg Marketing Association annual meeting, Conestoga Motor Inn, Lancaster.

Saturday, May 12

Tenth annual Mercer Sheep Sale, 6 p.m., Mercer 4-H Park.

To Inspect Lightning Rod Systems

The very heavy rumble we felt a week or so ago was not thunder but an earthquake. But it did remind me that we are in the thunderstorm season and buildings that have rods should be protected, that is if the rods are connected and free of obstructions. We urge owners of rodded buildings, especially barns, to inspect them closely and remove all items that will stop the flow of the electrical bolt. In many cases straw, hay, or bird nests might be between the rod and the building and cause a fire. Also, be sure the rods go into moist soil and are well grounded. A close inspection of the rod system will assure the protection that is needed.

The Extension Service is an affirmative action equal opportunity education institution.

Crop, livestock survey to be done

HARRISBURG — Last year's farm programs and drought resulted in tight feed stocks this year. Corn stocks this fall are expected to equal only one-sixth the levels of a year earlier. Stocks of sorghum may be down by half, and soybean supplies will also drop.

Livestock producers will face higher feed costs at least until the 1984 harvest gets underway, and beef and pork output may drop two percent from 1983, according to Wally Evans, of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Just how many acres went into production this season and how many livestock are on hand? A nationwide survey in late May and early June will develop estimates to guide farmers in their future marketings, and inform commodity buyers, traders, and policymakers, of what to expect from agriculture this year.

Evans notes, "Concerns about rising feed prices, tight stocks, and keen competition in overseas

markets are weighing heavily on farmers' plans this year. These uncertainties highlight the need for acreage and livestock information producers can rely on. Farmer cooperation," he said, "is the key to developing dependable estimates."

Representatives from the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service will interview a cross-section of Pennsylvania farmers, and mail questionnaires to others

gathering data for the estimates. Similar surveys will be carried on in all states. Final national and state estimates will be published by USDA's Crop Reporting Board.

A report on 1984 spring planted acres will be available on June 28, followed on July 10 with estimates of yield and production for several major crops. Estimates of hog and pig numbers will be reported on June 21, and cattle numbers on July 20.

CORRECTION

In the York County March DHIA report, top cow of the month was Flowers a 4-year-old owned by Stump Acres, York. The Holstein produced 1261 lbs. butterfat and 27,503 lbs. milk. Second high was Alva, a 4-year-old

Holstein also owned by Stump Acres, who produced 1055 lbs. butterfat and 24,892 lbs. of milk. Third high went to Val, a 4-year-old Holstein owned by George Knight, Airville, who produced 1055 lbs. butterfat and 22,699 lbs. of milk.

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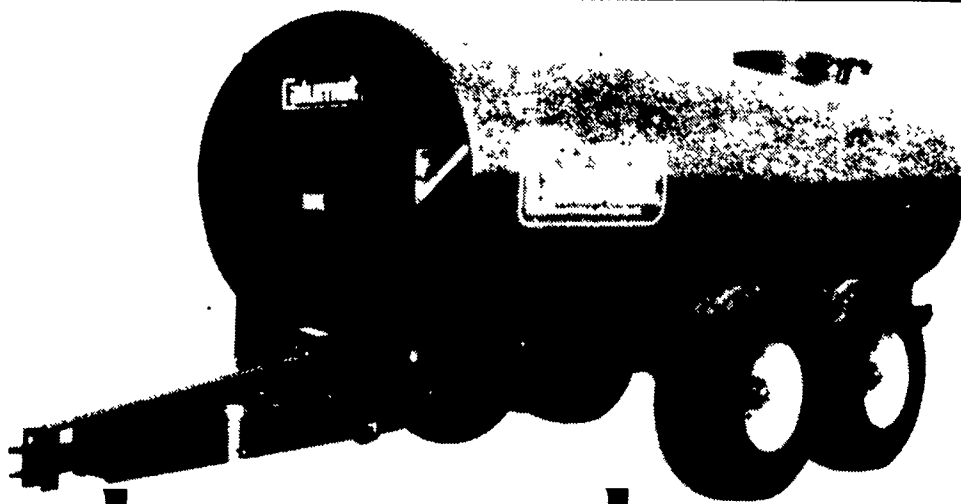
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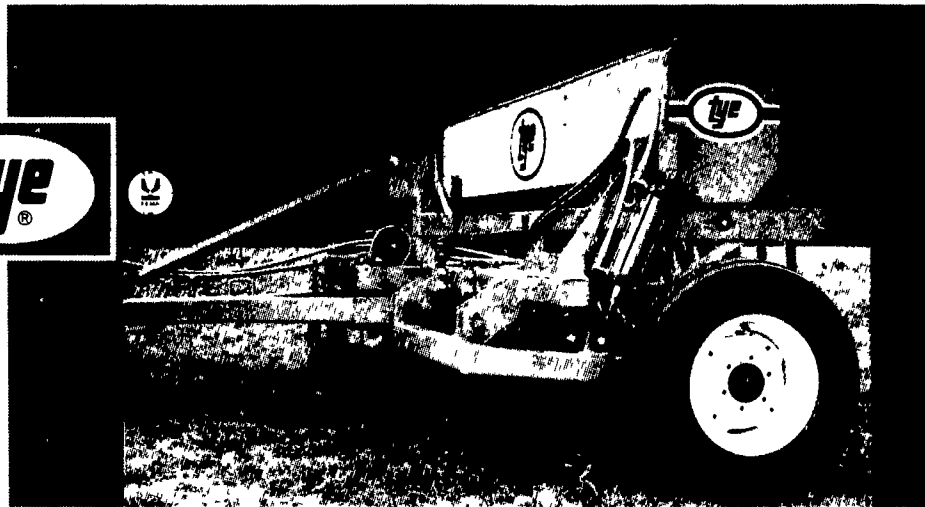
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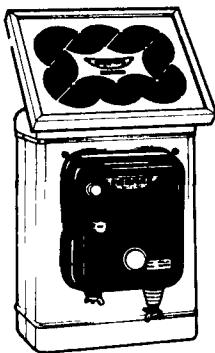
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