

# Soil Stewardship Week opens tomorrow

**WEST CHESTER** — "The Chester County Conservation District is joining in the nationwide celebration of Soil Stewardship Week, which begins tomorrow and continues through Sunday, June 3," Harold R. Kulp, District Chairman, Pottstown, reports.

Kulp encourages clergymen, lay leaders, churches, civic and educational organizations "to obtain a sample packet of the materials. Materials especially prepared for clergymen to use in preparation for the Soil Stewardship Week observance are available." They should contact the District office, 235 W. Market St., West Chester, Pa. 19380, ph: 696-5126.

"Soil Stewardship Week has become a special time to remind all people that these gifts of the Creator warrant their best in creative conservation and considerate management," he said.

"Not only farmers but owners of all land should recognize their obligations to use their property in such a way as to not damage another person's property, plained.

"The world as we know it could not exist without a fruitful agriculture. A regular harvest is a critical matter. But nature, like man, is erratic. There are times when the winds and the rain seem to conspire against a yield.

"When the rains cease and the earth cracks, when storms and pestilence wreak their havoc, fields become barren and livestock grow gaunt in search of grass. It is then and times of prolonged hardship, that the call goes out for Divine intervention to ease the suffering and restore the bounty of the soil."

That is what happened in France more than 1,500 years ago in the city of Vienne, and its surrounding countryside. Bad weather, fires and earthquakes had brought crop failures and widespread hunger.

The Bishop of Vienne, Saint Mamertus, called for prayer and penance on the three days preceding Ascension Day.

Word of what happened in Vienne spread throughout France and then to other countries beyond the Alps. The supplication filled a need in the hearts and minds of the people. As the years went by, the practice of setting aside these special days — Rogation Days — was widely established on an annual basis. By the end of the eighth century the Church formally adopted the custom.

In the United States, a few churches and their congregations in the South began to set aside the fifth Sunday after Easter as Soil and Soul Sunday. This designation was changed to Soil Stewardship Sunday in 1946.

Recognizing possible conflicts with Rural Life Sunday and other events often observed on church calendars, Soil Stewardship Sunday was changed to a Soil Stewardship Week. It was scheduled to begin on the fifth Sunday after Easter and continuing through the sixth Sunday. The change provided a helpful latitude in church timing for the observance.

"The Soil Stewardship Week observance, by its very nature, is one to be joined in by everyone who shares a sense of personal responsibility for the care of the soil, water and the other vital elements making up our environment," Kulp said.

The prime concern of the Chester County Conservation District and the cooperating clergymen and laymen, is to encourage an ever-growing participation by Chester County residents in this annual recognition of the continuing importance of each person having a good stewardship in and on his property," Kulp concluded.



An example of obviously poor soil stewardship and its effects on the land.

## Carrots, conservation and caring

**NEWMANSTOWN** — Carrots, conservation and caring do go together on the Dan Hogeland farm at Newmanstown. Last Spring, Hogeland installed 6000 feet of cropland terraces to reduce the runoff and erosion from his carrot field.

The cropland terraces are wide swales that go across the field every 135 feet according to Karl Hellerick, Soil Conservation Service. The grade is only 4-6 inches for each 100 foot of length. Thus, cropland terraces reduce the length of slope and carry any runoff slowly to a grassed waterway outlet, reports

Hellerick.

The entire cropland terrace is farmed in vegetables. This year another 3000 feet of cropland terraces are being installed. Hellerick reports that two other vegetables growers - Harold Fry and Earl Brandt - have installed waterways this spring. Another waterway is being designed for the Abe Risser-Bob Marvel vegetable operation. The waterways are to be seeded to grass and it's planned to outlet the cropland terraces into these well sodded outlets in 1986.

Vegetable growers have to get into the field to harvest crops when

they're ripe regardless of the soil conditions. This causes excessive compaction, stated Hellerick. Compaction reduces infiltration and increases runoff.

In addition, seed beds are often worked to a "fine" condition that causes a crust to form with the first heavy rainfall and thereby prevents water from soaking into the soil. This increased runoff causes erosion.

Vegetable growers have an intensely tilled crop that requires excellent management to save the soil and produce the food everyone can enjoy, concluded Hellerick.

## 5 new research projects approved

**HARRISBURG** — The Pennsylvania Agricultural Research Committee has approved five new projects totaling \$107,275 for the 1984-85 fiscal year, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

Three of the five projects will be conducted at Penn State. They include:

— Germplasm Enhancement of the Cultivated Mushroom, *Agaricus brunneus*, \$11,564.

— Economic Analysis of the Pennsylvania Greenhouse Industry, \$19,622.

— Evaluation of Potato Storage and Processing Quality, \$24,788.

The remaining new projects are:

— Effect of Protein Degradability and Estrous Detection on Dairy Reproduction, to be conducted at the University of Pennsylvania, \$21,447.

— A Novel Methodology for Estrus Detection in Bovine, to be done by the Monell Chemical Senses Center, \$29,854.

The ten-member committee also approved funding for a continuing project at Penn State University. A Research/Educational Program for Direct Marketers is to receive additional support in the amount of \$35,812.

Total funding for 1984-85 research project is \$310,000, according to Secretary Hallowell. He noted that funding for the five new projects, approved at an ARC meeting on May 8, is contingent upon passage of a state budget measure containing agricultural research funding as proposed by Governor Thornburgh.

Members of the Agricultural Research Committee include Secretary Hallowell, chairman; Deputy Secretaries of Agriculture

E. Chester Heim and J. Luther Snyder; Fred Wertz, Acting Director of the Department's Office of Planning and Research;

Ben Mader, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission; Charles Trimmer, Executive Director of the Penn-

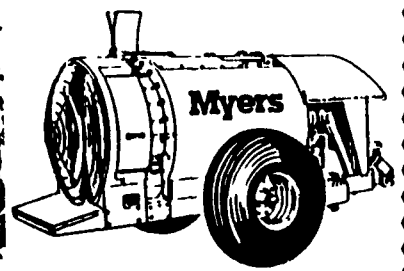
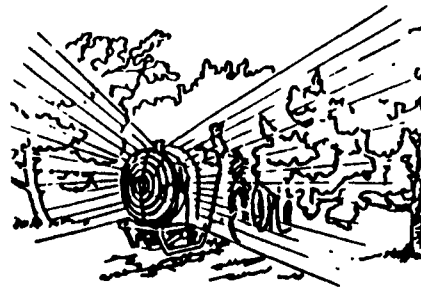
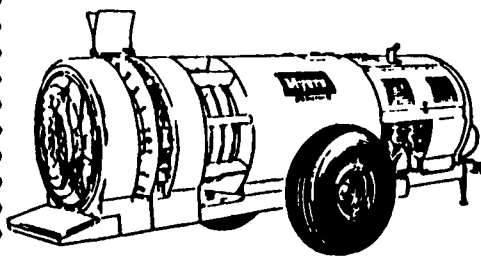
sylvania Horse Racing Commission; Senator Edward Helfrick, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; Senator Patrick J. Stapleton, Minority Chairman of

the Senate Committee; Representative Samuel Morris, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; and Representative Joseph V. Grieco, Minority Chairman of the House Committee.

Special  
Prices  
Now  
Thru  
June 11th

## Myers All-American Air Sprayers

Dilute or Concentrated Applications. For Orchard, Vineyard, Grove and Field Spraying.



SPRING  
AIR SPRAYER  
SELL-A-THON

Sales And Service By

**EARL F. KEGERISE, INC.**

RD #3 3058

Fleetwood, Pa. 19522

Phone 215-944-8532