

Md. to hold 2 forage field days

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Livestock and dairy farmers in northern Maryland's Piedmont area are invited to take an educational break this month.

They'll have a chance to chat with neighbors, watch field demonstrations, and learn what's new during two forage field days on successive Tuesdays in central and northeast Maryland. Dates are July 17 and 24.

Both events are being sponsored in part by the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service. Here are the details:

July 17

The second annual Central Maryland Forage Tour and Field Day is scheduled July 17 in Howard County. It will start at 10 a.m. on the Mark Clark dairy farm in the Elloak area at 10572 highway 108 (Clarksville Pike), just north of Columbia. The farm lane is about one-half mile — or the second entrance — west of Centennial

Lane, on the north side of the highway.

Visitors will be able to see one of the top-producing dairy herds in the state, which has won numerous Dairy Herd Improvement Association awards for increases in butterfat production. The 155-cow Holstein operation has a DHIA rolling herd annual production average in excess of 20,000 pounds of milk and more than 750 pounds of butterfat per cow.

Cows at the Clark farm are fed in two groups, based on milk production. The feeding program includes corn, soybean and sorghum silage, as well as timothy and alfalfa hay.

Tour participants will leave the Clark farm in private cars and proceed to the University of Maryland's agronomy-dairy forage research farm nearby at 4234 Folly Quarter road for noon lunch and a short afternoon program. Box lunches will be available at nominal cost.

After lunch, tour participants will be able to visit research plots at the University of Maryland farm. They will also hear presentations by university Extension and research workers on forage establishments, alfalfa fertilization, species evaluations, chemical hay conditioning, and organic acid hay preservatives.

The program will end about 3:30 p.m., according to Dr. Lester R. Vough, Extension agronomy specialist at the University of Maryland in College Park. Co-sponsor is the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council, organized in 1982.

The council had originally planned a follow-up Delmarva Forage Field Day on July 18 at the University of Delaware's Hickory Hill research farm near Cheswold, Del. But that event has been cancelled because of the continuing threat from avian influenza, a dread poultry disease



NO-TILL INTEREST — Summer field days offered by the Cooperative Extension Service give farmers a chance to take an educational break, chat with neighbors, watch field demonstrations and learn what's new. Those attending the Cecil County Ag Showcase forage field day on July 24 will be able to see and compare no-till drills, like the one shown in this picture during a 1983 summer farm tour on the Sparks and Hare partnership farm in Baltimore county. Farmer David L. Sparks leans on drill in foreground as he speaks to the group, while county Extension agent G. Richard Curran (second from right) looks on.

which has caused concern for the large Delmarva broiler industry.

July 24

The third annual Cecil County Ag Showcase field day is scheduled July 24 in conjunction with the county fair at Fair Hill. This year's emphasis will be on forage equipment. Registration, with free milk and doughnuts, will begin at 9:30 a.m. Field demonstration of round and conventional baling will run from 10 o'clock to 12:30.

Lunch will be available on the

fairground at moderate cost. An air show and display of ultralight aircraft is scheduled during the lunch break.

The afternoon session, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., will feature demonstration of no-till drills and conservation tillage equipment.

Farm equipment dealers from three states will participate in the forenoon and afternoon demonstrations. Most of them also will have equipment on display, according to Theodore A. Haas,

Extension agricultural agent in Cecil County. There will be a drawing for door prize money at the conclusion of the field day. Haas says that this will be the largest forage equipment demonstration event ever held on the Demarva peninsula. All interested persons are invited.

Activities of the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, religion, age or national origin.

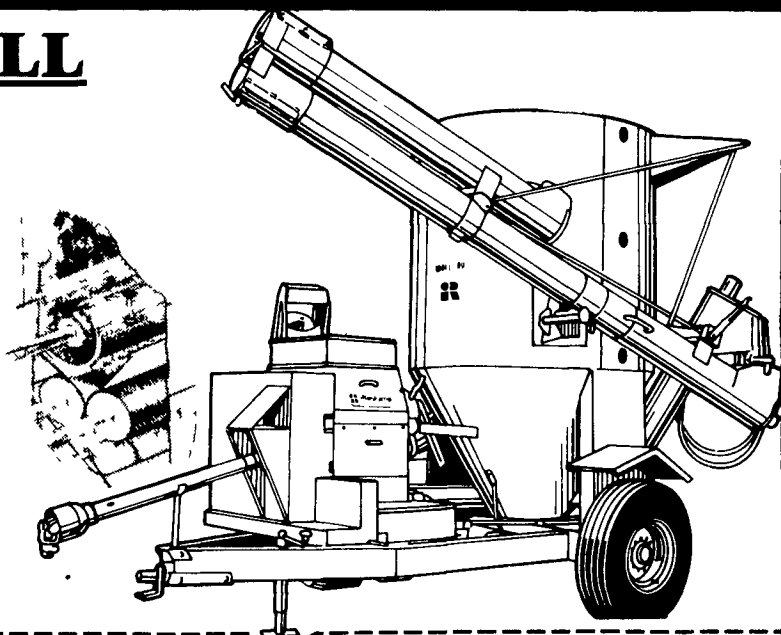
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