

Department head named

UNIVERSITY PARK — Wayne A. Schutjer has been named head of Penn State's Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, effective Oct. 15. He replaces John W. Malone, Jr. who has returned to teaching and research.

Schutjer has been a faculty member in the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology department since 1964. He was named professor in 1975. In addition, Schutjer acted as international economist for the U.S. Agency for International Development between 1967 and 1968, research and training director of The Agricultural Development Council in 1971, and director of The Southeast Asia Regional Agriculture program for The Ford Foundation for two years.

Schutjer has taught agricultural economics classes, and has acted as major professor for 21 theses. He has also conducted research on the foreign impacts of state and



Wayne Schutjer

national agriculture, and contributed to more than 50 publications.

Schutjer earned his B.S. and M.S. in Economics at South Dakota State University, and his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University.

Winterize equipment as you can

NEWARK, Del. — When the weather's fit now, farmers are busy planting small grains and harvesting crops. But when they can't do field work, there are plenty of farm chores which should be done before freezing weather sets in.

University of Delaware extension county agent Derby Walker says the first job to tackle is winterizing equipment. Make sure all tractors, combines and trucks contain antifreeze to prevent freezing and bursting. Also clean and prepare sprayers for storage, if this job hasn't already been done.

The owner's manual has detailed instructions on how to prepare a sprayer for winter, Walker says. It makes suggestions like storing the tips and screens in oil to prevent rust damage, and tells you how to oil the pump to protect it. Wash out everything well to remove any residues, and drain the pump.

"While you're doing this," he says, "check the sprayer carefully to see if you need to make any repairs. It will be a lot less hassle to do them now than next spring when you need the sprayer—especially since it's sometimes

hard to get parts. In fact, it's smart to check all your equipment before you put it away for the season. Make note of anything that needs to be replaced or overhauled. Lining up work to do over the winter is a good way to reduce down time next spring."

The pesticide storage shed should also receive attention before cold weather sets in. "Ideally, all your chemicals should be used up so you won't have a storage problem," Walker says. "But this rarely happens. So read the labels on leftover materials to determine the temperatures at which they must be stored to prevent freezing. Also, make sure all products are in their original containers, and that no container is damaged or leaks." Place open bags of powdered chemicals inside plastic bags for added protection from moisture.

Following label instructions for winter storage of pesticides can prevent serious problems later on. Freezing may reduce the activity of chemicals or affect built-in product safety factors, resulting in crop injury.

"Be sure all your pesticides are stored under lock and key,"

Walker says. Also mark the storage area with a warning sign to alert firemen so that they can take precautions to avoid smoke inhalation in case of fire.

Soybean storage bins also need attention now. Rodent-proof bins and treat them for grain moths and weevils to protect stored seeds. "If you're harvesting soybeans for seed," the agent says, "be sure to send a sample to the State Department of Agriculture lab right away for a germination test. There's no use saving beans of poor quality when you can sell them and buy good seed." Since seed quality often deteriorates over time, Walker recommends checking soybeans of questionable quality two or three times over the winter.

Fall is an extremely busy season with crops to be harvested, small grains to be planted, and grain to be marketed. But the above chores are necessary to protect a farmer's investment. So get in the habit of winterizing equipment and properly storing soybean seeds and pesticides every year before winter arrives.

"These jobs may not seem very important," says Walker, "and they certainly won't put dollars directly into your pocket. But if you neglect them now, next spring your tractor may not start, your sprayer may not work, or your pesticides may be damaged. Then you'll kick yourself because you didn't take care of them when you had the chance."



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