## Md. yule tree directory available

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — It's that time of year again for those interested in purchasing a fresh Christmas tree from the farm or farmer who grew it. According to George Roche of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the 1984 directory listing tree farms and farmer-owned retail sales lots is now coming off the press.

To secure a copy for your use this season, all you have to do is pick one up from your local county library or Cooperative Extension Service office. An alternative to these methods is to send a stamped, self-addressed number 10 (business size) envelope to:

"Christmas Trees", Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Roche says this year's directory features an improved map showing the locations of the listed farms and retail lots. Some 33

"Cnoose and Cut" farms are listed where you can actually select your tree while it is growing in the field and five grower-operated lots are included.

"Not all Christmas tree growers are listed each year", Roche points out, "because many growers now have all the customers they can handle and some growers have no trees ready for this season. As new production is ready, they relist themselves.

"In recent years, business for our growers has increased dramatically because many families want a fresh cut, handsome tree, and know that by buying it direct from a local grower they can get it. On site selection of the family tree has now become a Yuletide custom with many folks.

The directory is a joint project of the Marketing Services Section of MDA and the Maryland Christmas Tree Association.

## Nutrena reports pig wean feed

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. - A new feed for pigs weaned at four weeks or less that helps reduce the incidence of scours and improves pig performance is available from the Nutrena Feed Division of Cargill.

Called Wean-N-Start pack, it is formulated to be incorporated with concentrate and corn for the increasing number of producers who wean pigs at early ages, said Dick Gosen, Nutrena swine products manager.

"It's critical that early weaned pigs get off to a good start. Wean-N-Start is formulated with that in mind. It is part of a grind and mix program that allows producers to feed up to 1,450 pounds of corn in each ton of ration, especially important in areas where corn is plentiful," he said.

David Cieslak, Nutrena swine

researcher who developed the feed, said three trials involving 88 pigs showed that pigs fed the grind and mix ration with Wean-N-Start pack consumed, on average, 22 percent more feed and gained 23.9 percent faster (.6 pounds per day instead of .48 pounds per day) during the first three weeks after

weaning than pigs on Nutrena's previous grind and mix ration. (See chart)

"The research with Wean-N-Start pack also shows a reduction in the incidence of scours by 56.2 percent during the critical first week after weaning over the previous formula," he said. "This is because the carbohydrates in rations with high levels of soybean meal often are responsible for a higher incidence of scours since baby pigs can't readily digest them. However, the high quality proteins in Wean-N-Start pack help reduce this problem.'

Cieslak added that management is especially important when weaning pigs at four weeks of age or less. In addition to a sound nutrition program, he gave the following recommendations:

Avg. daily gain, lbs.

Avg. scours index

Avg. days on feed

Avg. final wt., lbs.

Avg. daily feed intake, lbs.

Lbs. feed per lb. of gain

-Locate feed in a well-lighted area easily accessible to pigs. Provide ample feeding space and keep equipment clean. Remove moldy, wet or stale feed.

-Provide fresh, clean water at

all times. -Keep the pig-level temperature at about 85 degrees during the first week. Then drop the temperature about five degrees per week for the next three weeks. Also carefully regulate

ventilation. -Thoroughly clean and disinfect buildings between each group of

—Do not put more than 15 pigs in each pen.

-Sort pigs to a maximum weight variation of plus or minus 10 percent from the average weight of pigs in the pen.

Wean-N-Start pack Previous program

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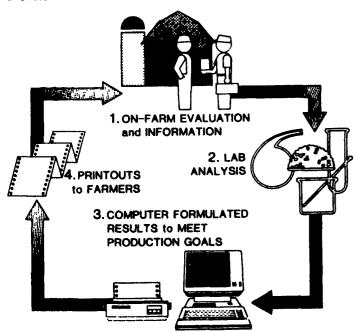
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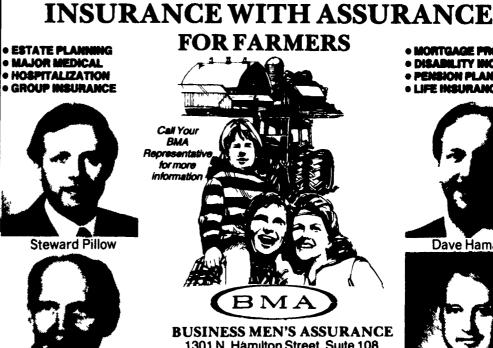
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