

State Farmers Union joins two-day lobbying effort

HARRISBURG — Members of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union will join Farmers Union members from ten other states in Washington, D.C. on March 25 and 26.

This massive two-day lobbying effort will focus on the 1985 farm bill through the lens of Farmers Union policy.

Key points include:

- * This farm bill should be a long-term law, rather than only 4 years.
- * The wide discretionary authorities provided to the Secretary of Agriculture should be drastically limited.
- * Minimum price support protection must be established at cost of production levels.
- * Reserve programs must insure an adequate supply to meet domestic needs and export commitments.
- * The role of the Commodity Credit Corporation should be expanded to include negotiation of long-term agreements with importing nations.
- * Congress should establish the base programs for commodities and the discretionary authority of the Secretary should extend only to the necessary ranges to allow effective adjustment of supply management programs to meet domestic and international demand.
- * Deficiency payments should be made to producers in an amount

representing the difference between the full parity price and the average market price. Payments should be made on a de-escalating scale, so as to direct the most financial aid to family farmers.

* Realistic limitations on payments must be enacted to provide effective production and preference to the family farmer and the family-farm system of agriculture.

* Cross compliance should be required for producers to be eligible for benefits of any single commodity program whenever supplies of one commodity are out

of balance with other commodity supplies.

* Mandatory supply management programs adopted through producer referenda should systematically replace current programs which permit a minority of producers to frustrate the supply adjustments made by the majority.

* Non-farm corporations or alien owners should not be eligible to receive farm program benefits.

Anyone interested in going along to the lobbying trip should call the state farmers union office, 1-800-932-4629, for more details.

Northumberland no-till meeting

SUNBURY — The Northumberland County Conservation District will hold its second annual no-till conference March 29th at the Farmers Best Restaurant, East Lewisburg. The workshop is being co-sponsored by the District, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Soil Conservation Service.

The session runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will cover a variety of no-till topics

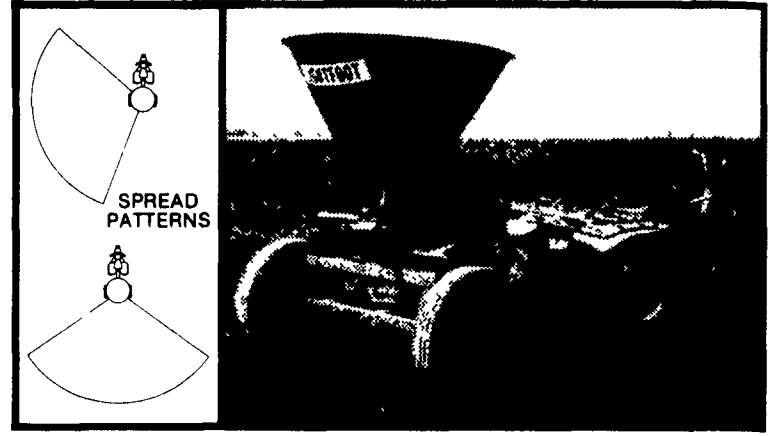
Guest speakers will include Lynn Hoffman, superintendent, Penn State Rock Spring Agronomy Farm; Dr. W. Thomas Lanini, extension agronomy specialist from Penn State; John Spitzer, Pennsylvania state agronomist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service; Mike Fleming, Velsicol

Chemical Corporation; Vernon Brose, Northumberland County agent; Norman Conrad, Union County agent; and George Phillips, Northumberland County farm planner.

Topics include aspects of no-till planting, no-till equipment, weed and insect control, no-till plot demonstrations, as well as other topics. Highlighting the conference will be a panel discussion featuring several of Northumberland County's most experienced no-till farmers.

A \$3 registration fee for the workshop includes lunch. Tickets may be purchased by sending a check to the Northumberland County Conservation District, R. D. #2 Box 347-1, Sunbury, PA 17801.

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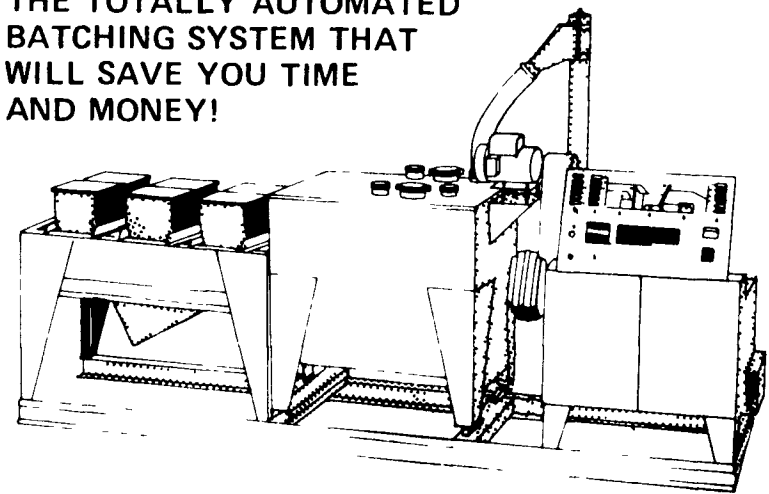
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