

## Experiments on schedule for Landisville Crops Day

UNIVERSITY PARK — "Our research plots are looking good and we expect they will be in top shape for our Crops Day activities," John Yocum, superintendent of Penn State's Southeastern Field Research Laboratory at Landisville, said today.

"Rainfall to date has been less than normal," he said, "but we've had a couple of nice rains at just the right time."

Penn State's Crops Day at Landisville in Lancaster County is an annual activity conducted for farmers and others who wish to visit the laboratory, see what's going on, and talk with the scientists doing the work.

The June 18 program will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the laboratory on Auction Road, two miles northwest of Landisville.

Yocum pointed out that forages and small grains research is to be featured in this year's program, but work with other crops, such as vegetables and flowers, is also under way.

Visitors will be welcome to look about and ask questions. "We're very interested in questions," he said.

The experiments with small grains include variety development, disease control and management strategies for increased profitability, Yocum explained. Use of growth regulators to reduce yield losses in wheat is the object of two projects by Elwood Hatley, Penn State Extension agronomist.

In one project, a variety-comparison trial, Hatley has sprayed six varieties with once-only applications of a growth regulator designed to reduce lodging. This approach will permit ranking the varieties by percentage of lodged plants and grain produced per plot.

Another of Hatley's wheat experiments compares response of two varieties to one-time applications of growth regulator on plants at different stages. Two rates of application were used.

As the plots ripen, Hatley will be able to compare the influence of

variety rate of application, and growth stage effectiveness of the chemical.

As with other experiments, the results of this work will be formulated into the standard management recommendations of the College of Agriculture, and added to the Experiment Station's databank of agronomic research.

Crops Day visitors will tour the breeding plots for spring oats, where USDA-ARS scientist Harold Marshall and his associate, USDA-ARS plant geneticist Fred Kolb, are working to develop a dwarf or semi-dwarf oat that will resist lodging.

Root lodging and stem lodging are most likely to occur in the taller plants, and a short-stemmed variety would have appeal.

On the other hand, many farmers consider oat straw to be the ideal material for livestock bedding, and oat varieties with shorter stems will mean less straw at harvest time.

Some oat varieties are easier to grow than others and any new variety needs to be looked at from this point of view. Farmers need to

know the level of management required to produce a good crop when they are selecting varieties for their particular cropping system, Yocum explained.

Methods of managing small grains when disease organisms reach threshold levels receive major study at the Laboratory, Yocum said. James Frank, USDA-ARS scientist and adjunct associate professor of plant

pathology at Penn State, will discuss the work.

Frank and his colleagues, research assistant James Spadafora and PSU plant pathologist Herb Cole, are comparing yield loss in Septoria-infected wheat plants on untreated plots and plots treated with fungicide. The objective is to develop forecasting and disease-management systems that will enable a farmer to spray with

fungicides and reduce losses from glume blotch.

Other Penn State scientists preparing Crops Day presentations include Marvin L. Resius, working on breeding winter wheat and winter barley varieties, and Les E. Lanyon and Greg Roth, working on soil fertility.

Experiments dealing with production and management of forage crops are also scheduled for presentation, Yocum said.

## PFU supports Grubb nomination

HARRISBURG — The Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union announced its support of Dr. Richard Grubb's nomination for Secretary of Agriculture at a meeting this week.

State Executive Director Chester L. Reed stated during the meeting, "We've met with Dr. Grubb and we are convinced that he would do an excellent job for Pennsylvania agriculture."

"We are very pleased to have a nominee who was raised on a

family farm," added PFU President M. James Brown. "Dr. Grubb already has a first-hand appreciation of the special needs of Pennsylvania's farmers."

Commenting on Dr. Grubb's Penn State background, Brown said, "His combination of farming, economic and administrative experience qualify him for the tremendous challenge of guiding the state's leading industry."

Vice-President Barbara E. Woods said she felt the Governor

had made a good choice. "Dr. Grubb seems to agree with Farmers Union's policy which recognizes the role of supply management in an overall program to raise prices paid to farmers," she said.



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