

Vegetable growers plan state conference

HERSHEY — Vegetable growers from all over the Commonwealth will be gathering here at the end of the month for educational seminars and an industry trade show. Ten sessions on vegetable, bedding plants and small fruit production are scheduled during the three-day event.

More than 100 companies will be present at the trade show with the latest in equipment, supplies, pesticides, and seed varieties. The event, the 1986 Pennsylvania Vegetable Conference, opens January 28, 1986 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Registration is open to all interested persons and begins at 7:30 on each morning of the Conference in the main lobby of the Convention Center at West Chocolate Avenue and University Drive in Hershey. Registration fees, which provide admission to the educational meetings and the industry trade show are \$20 for three days and \$10 for one day. Lodging and meals are extra.

Participation in the Conference allows Pennsylvania Certified Pesticide Applicators to update their certificates. Additional information may be obtained from the county extension offices throughout the state or from William Troxell, Executive Secretary, Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, R.D.1 Box 392, Northumberland, PA 17857-9724, telephone 717-473-8468 (evening calls welcome).

Tuesday, January 28, 1986, will feature a morning session devoted to tomato production, one of the state's most important vegetable crops. Penn State extension specialists and a Pennsylvania grower will speak on variety selection and tomato culture. The top tomato growers in the state will be honored at the annual Tomato Awards Luncheon at noon.

A concurrent morning session will cover general vegetable production topics. Dr. Otho Wells from New Hampshire will speak on row covers and tunnels. Other speakers will cover varieties,

nutritional value of vegetables and the Chesapeake Bay situation.

Tuesday afternoon will also have concurrent sessions, one on sweet corn and snap beans. Speakers from New York and Maryland will talk on snap bean production while a panel of several Pennsylvania Growers will discuss sweet corn harvesting. Marketing of fresh produce will be the emphasis for the general vegetable session.

The fruit growers of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey will join the vegetable growers on Tuesday evening for a banquet. Sister Thomas More Bertels, Professor of History at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, Wisconsin will be the speaker.

Wednesday, January 29, will feature a full day of bedding plant topics by well-known experts: Dr. William Carlson of Michigan, Dr. Raymond Sheldrake of New York and Dr. Richard Lindquist of Ohio.

Concurrent sessions on general vegetables will cover insect pests and pesticide use, lime and fertilizer use, and tomato, bean and pepper research. The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association

will also be held. A buffet supper and travelogue are planned for the evening.

Small fruit production will be the theme on Thursday, January 30. Blueberry and bramble production will be emphasized in the morning while strawberries will be discussed in the afternoon.

The Conference is annually sponsored by the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, the Pennsylvania State University College of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Food Processors Association. The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania along with the State Horticultural Societies of Maryland and New Jersey will be holding concurrent meetings on tree fruit production at the Convention Center.

The trade show is coordinated by the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania. Various social events are scheduled for the evening hours making the Conference an educational and social affair where growers can meet

fellow growers from around the state and share their problems and ideas.

Hotel arrangements must be made directly with The Hershey Lodge (W. Chocolate Ave. and University Dr., Hershey PA 10733, 717-533-3311) or at another nearby hotel. Luncheon tickets (Tuesday) are \$9.75, Banquet tickets (Tuesday) are \$20 and Buffet tickets (Wednesday) are \$12 per person. They will be available at the Conference. Walk-in registrations are welcome.

Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association dues are \$20 at the Conference. Members receive reduced registration fees, \$15 for three days and \$8 for one day.



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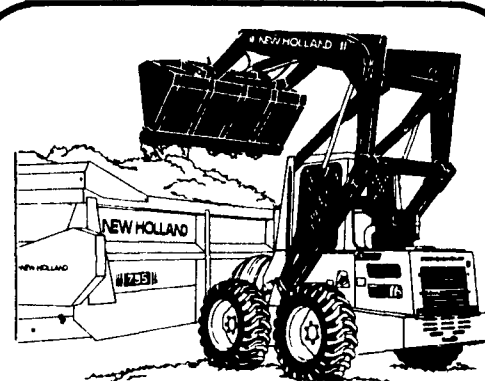
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