

Vegetable conference

YORK — York and Lancaster Counties boast a fiercely competitive fresh vegetable-growing industry. As new vegetable growers jump into producing one or two vegetable crops each year, few existing growers are cutting back or retiring. That fact is the case according to a recent survey conducted by the Penn State Extension Service of York County.

Established growers along with the new faces in the industry are pressuring existing markets to buy up "more" fresh vegetables. Fortunately, right now demand is increasing each year for fresh "high quality" vegetables. But, beware lest any vegetable grower should rest easy.

Competitive growers in the lower Susquehanna Region in the late 80's will have to be smarter than their predecessors. Agricultural Economic forecasters suggest that by the year to 2000, only the highly educated growers like those with a master degree education at an accredited college will survive in farming. Most growers would agree, the complexities in today's pesticide programs and the regulations tied to them are making life difficult for the uninformed.

Whether we like it or not,

biotechnology is the cause for changing agriculture and it is here to stay. As a result, all of us will have to make major adjustments in our cropping program in the future. Those who adopt new technology as it becomes available faster & faster will survive the treadmill. These so called "early adopters" in farming will realize the benefits of technological change. They will successfully produce more at lower prices. But, this can only force other growers to "exit" farming. What can we do to stem the tide each year?

Fortunately, the Penn State Extension System is helping make some adjustments possible. Extension not only educates growers in long held cropping practices, but it also provides the so called "technology transfer" from research to "state of the art" vegetable producers. The good news is that this transfer has the potential to solve more and more of the problems we keep running into in Agriculture. The potential for producing foods that improve health & nutrition is right now only being given full attention by researchers. The bad news is all of us must adjust to the changes as they become available at an increasing rate each year.

One meeting has been planned which will help update vegetable growers in changes that have become available in research this past year. On Wednesday, February 19, 1986 York & Lancaster Counties Extension Services will host a vegetable growers meeting. Held at the easily accessible "Rutter's Restaurant" (formerly Avalong's) along Rt. 30 East. The one day meeting with the theme "Pest Update & Control/Impact on the Bay" will inform, expand your knowledge and help you make the tough decisions required in farming today.

Meeting presenters include six Penn State Extension Specialists in Horticulture, Agronomy, Entomology, Ag Economics and Plant Pathology. Topics like, No-Till Vegetable Cropping, Nutrient Runoff in Today's Cropping Systems, Vegetable Marketing Trends, Computer Pest Monitoring Systems and more will be addressed. Also, this meeting will provide pesticide applicators an opportunity for pesticide license renewal if qualified.

Reservations are needed so please contact the York Co. Extension Service Office at 757-9657 or the Lancaster Co. Extension Service Office at 394-6851 before February 12, 1986.

Troubleshooting session planned

NEWARK, DE — A short course on vegetable and field crop troubleshooting and problem solving for company field reps and farmers will be held February 12 and 19 at the Sheraton Inn in Dover. Both sessions will be on Wednesdays and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

"It has been several years since we last conducted this program," says extension county agricultural agent Derby Walker. "Our goal is to help improve your skills in identifying field problems." The course is being sponsored by the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service. All extension events are open to everyone regardless of race, color, sex, handicap, age or national origin.

Topics to be covered during the morning half of the February 12 session will include troubleshooting crops, identifying herbicide and sprayer problems, nutrient deficiency in grain crops, soil tests as a tool in determining lime, potash and minor element needs. The afternoon session will focus on vegetable production, including insects and insecticide effectiveness in sweet corn, limas, snap beans, peppers and vine crops; Colorado potato bug control

on potatoes; nematodes, root rots, diseases and fungicide effectiveness; and fertilizer and herbicide effectiveness.

On February 19 the morning half of the program will cover sampling techniques (soil, insect and disease specimens) and the use of black light trap information and the pesticide hot line; weed identification tools and new weeds, techniques for controlling new and hard-to-kill weeds; diseases and nematodes in field crops; and certification, spraying complaints and pesticide problems. The final afternoon session will include presentations on how the University of Delaware soil laboratory and soil testing work for farmers, high management for small grains, new herbicide recommendations and better ways to set up sprayers, and insects and insecticide effectiveness in field crops.

There is a charge of \$25 per person to attend. For further information contact Derby Walker at the University of Delaware Research and Education Center, R.D. 2, Box 48, Georgetown, DE 19947 (302-856-7303).

Court grants NEDCO extension

SYRACUSE — For the benefit of former NEDCO producers, Northeast Dairy Cooperative Federation in Syracuse, New York, has received a two-month extension for filing proof of claim. NEDCO management, recognizing that time constraints might prevent creditors from filing their proof, initiated an extension be granted from the original date of February 2, 1986.

The order for the extension was approved by the Creditor's Committee. The new date of filing is April 3, 1986. Any claims filed after that date will not be accepted.

The extension or "stipulation order" has been submitted to Judge Stephen D. Gerling. Final approval of the order is expected without delay.

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