

'Future' conference opens Wednesday in Harrisburg

UNIVERSITY PARK — As the farm goes, so goes the state, says Arthur Davis, Maurice K. Goddard professor of forestry and environmental resources at Penn State.

"The decisions we make today will affect the future of the entire Commonwealth into the next

century." Davis will chair the first Future of Pennsylvania Agriculture Conference Wednesday and Thursday in Harrisburg. "It is the beginning of a process which will determine the future shape of all of the state's agricultural components," says Davis.

Over 300 government, agriculture, industry and academic leaders will attend the conference. They will discuss topics ranging from emerging technologies in agriculture to the effect of Pennsylvania's large non-farm population on agricultural

production.

"Non-farmers need to know and care about what happens to farming," Davis says. "With Pennsylvania home to more rural residents than any other state, farmers must have the support of all people to continue their operations."

Davis says that many non-farmers are generally aware of the plight of the modern farmer, but few Pennsylvanians realize that their farming neighbors are somewhat less burdened than farmers in the Midwest.

"Our agriculture is more diversified, and less dependent on the vagaries of one or two markets, or national agricultural programs. We have greater opportunities for earning off-farm income. Our land values have not been as unstable as those in the Midwest," Davis says.

That, in addition to Pennsylvania farmers' conservative borrowing and the advantage of proximity to major markets, has increased our status as a farming state, Davis adds.

However, "we're not immune to the ills that plague farmers elsewhere," Davis says. "A game plan is necessary. We are not talking about fuzzy goals and high hopes, but the particular actions that must be taken to adapt the state's agricultural industry to the nation and the world."

"We will be setting a general direction, identifying the questions and examining their status. This will be the basis for detailed plans and definitive actions."

According to Davis, the conference is the first of a three-part series of meetings through 1987 which will address farming issues, such as marketing strategies, safeguarding water and farmland, rural life, and using emerging technology to maintain a competitive edge with other agricultural regions.

For more information on the conference, including information on late registration, contact Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, Dean, College of Agriculture, 201 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, Pa., 16802 or call (814) 865-8301.

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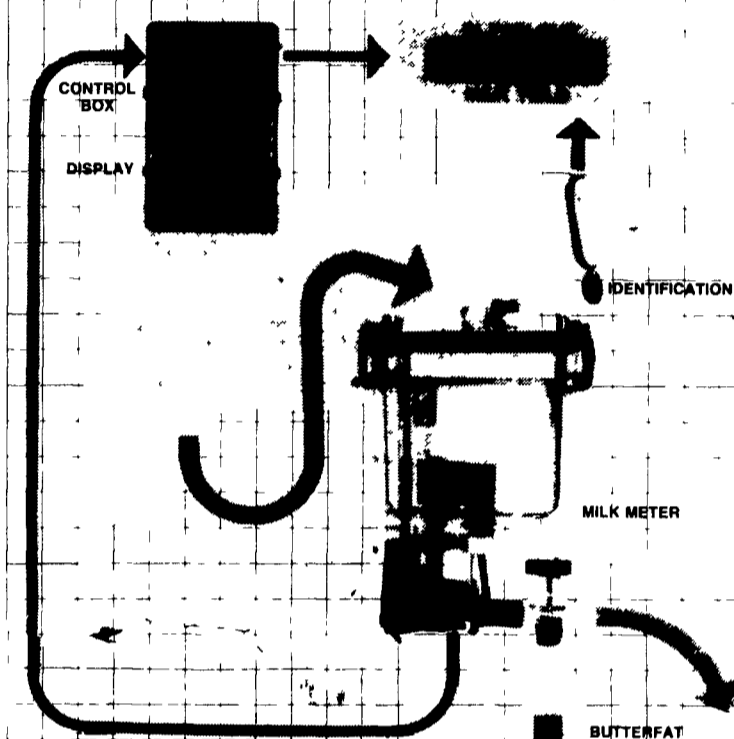
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Wayne County slates crops day

HONESDALE — A Wayne County Crops Day will be held Thursday, March 27 from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Seelyville Fire Hall. The event is being co-sponsored by the Penn State Extension Service and farm supply dealers.

Speakers will be Joseph McGahan, Sidney Bosworth, and Lynn Hoffman, all Extension agronomists, Penn State University. Educational presentations will include recommended varieties, weed control, insect and disease control, fertilization, and cultural practices. The speakers will cover the production of corn, alfalfa, grass, and summer an-

nuals.

Lunch will be served at the meeting site. Reservations are requested by calling the Wayne County Extension Office at 717-253-5970 ext. 114.

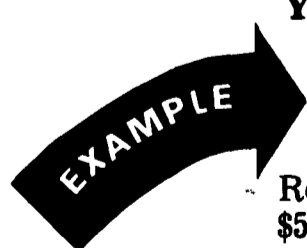
The meeting will meet the requirements of pesticide recertification.

Farm supply dealers interested in participating should contact the Wayne County Extension Office for information.

Crops Day is taking the place of the annual Corn Clinic which was previously held at the Worthington Scranton Penn State Campus and Belmont Fire Hall.

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