

Western Penn Tillage Conferences Slated

Dr. William Edwards, USDA soil scientist out of the Coshocton, Ohio research station, will be the keynote speaker for the Western Penn Tillage Conferences. Dr. Edwards' research focuses on the influence tillage practices have on the physical properties of soil. Soil structure has been shown to greatly affect soil productivity. Dr. Edwards will speak on the long range effects of tillage practices and also on soil dynamics.

In addition to Edwards, William K. Waters, area farm management agent, will speak on the economics of tillage systems. Penn State research farm manager, Lynn Hoffman, will moderate a farmer panel. Discussion will focus on "A Farmer's view of Tillage". The panel members are; Ross Orner (Dairyman from Rockton, PA), Rich Burd (Dairyman from Uniontown, PA) and Robert Lohr (Dairyman from Boswell, PA)

Agenda for the meeting follows:

9-10:00 AM	*Commercial Exhibits, Registration Coffee and Sweet Rolls
10:00-10:30 AM	*New Pennsylvania Pesticide Law PA Dept. of Agriculture
10:30-11:15 AM	*Economics of Tillage Systems William K. Waters
11:15-12:00 AM	*Long Range Effects of Tillage Systems Dr. William Edwards
12:00-1:30 PM	*Lunch & Commercial Exhibits
1:30-2:15 PM	*Farmer Panel Ross Orner, Rich Burd, & Robert Lohr
2:15-2:45 PM	*Water Infiltration and Soil Dynamics Dr. William Edwards
2:45-3:00 PM	*Wrap-up Lynn Hoffman

This meeting will qualify for pesticide update credits with the same agenda offered at two locations. The Mountain View Inn in Greensburg, PA will be the site on February 18 or plan on going to the Days Inn in Meadville, PA on

February 19. A registration fee of \$4.00 will be collected to help cover the cost of lunch. Questions on the conference can be answered by your local county agent. Registrations should be sent by February 12 to:

Greensburg Meeting
Gary L. Sheppard
971 Old Salem Road
P.O. Box 250
Greensburg, PA 15601

Meadville Meeting
Joseph S. Beard
Courthouse, Room 8
Meadville, PA 16335

USDA Strengthens Drug Residue Testing In Calves

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is revising its residue testing procedures for young veal calves to focus greater attention on animals and slaughter plants where problems are most likely to occur, according to a USDA official.

"The revised system will increase testing in plants with high violation rates and decrease testing at plants consistently handling young calves free of sulfa and antibiotic residues," said Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The residue testing procedures are part of a program begun in 1984 under which owners of calves may certify — in writing — that their calves were not treated with drugs or, if they were treated, that the prescribed withdrawal period has passed before the calves were slaughtered. Uncertified calves are tested more carefully than certified calves. The program was established to combat a drug residue problem that occurred in bob calves — calves up to three weeks or 150 pounds — and not in "fancy" veal, which is the source of veal chops and roasts.

"Nationwide, violation rates dropped to two percent in calves tested in fiscal 1986, down from approximately five percent when the testing and certification program began in 1984," Houston

said. "The revised program will help combat the persistently high violation rates in certain plants," said Houston. "While some plants have no more than 0.5 percent (one-half of one percent) violative carcasses, others have violation rates as high as 9 percent."

"The USDA veterinarian-in-charge at each plant will be able to select one of six levels of testing ranging from checking 1 to 100 percent of calves slaughtered at the plant," said Houston. "To provide each plant an equal opportunity to establish its compliance history, however, all plants initially will be checked at the same level (called level D), in which 5 percent of healthy certified and 10 percent of uncertified calves are tested."

"We recognize that intense testing slows down production lines, and, therefore, are adding a provision permitting the plant to designate employees to help the USDA inspector in performing the Calf Antibiotic and Swab Test under the supervision of a USDA veterinarian," said Houston. "The USDA veterinarian must interpret the results and ensure the integrity of the testing program."

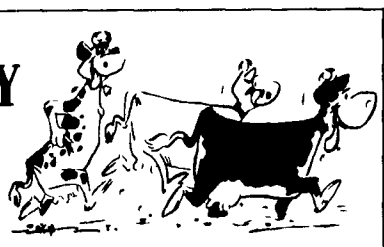
Finally, USDA is altering its program so that inspectors are no longer required to test carcasses for drug residues after the carcass has been condemned for disease or other reasons.

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