

Penn State Agronomy Guide Published

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre) — What do farmers, agriculture students, cooperative extension agents, conservation experts and agricultural industry managers have in common, besides their love for the land? According to O. Elwood Hatley, professor of agronomy at Penn State, they're all liable to consult the Penn State "Agronomy Guide 1989-1990" on a regular basis.

"Just about everything you need to know about managing a crop is right here," Hatley says. "There are sections on storing seed and grain, raising corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, small grains and forages. We have sections on soil fertility management and erosion control. There's a lot covered in these 135 pages."

The "Agronomy Guide" is a survey of the most important issues relevant to crop production. Hatley and seven other faculty members in the College of Agriculture were responsible for preparing the guide, with the assistance of county extension agents; representatives of the fertilizer, lime, pesticide and seed industries; and state agriculture and environmental agencies personnel. "This information has to be updated regularly," Hatley says. "Particularly the information on pest management—major changes occur quickly in that field."

The "Agronomy Guide" has been published, first annually, then once every two years, since the 1950s. "It is one of the most valuable publications available to those in the agriculture industry," says John Baylor, professor emeritus of agronomy. Baylor, who

was involved in the production of the guide for 26 years until his retirement, saw the guide evolve from a manual providing tips and recommendations about farming into a comprehensive handbook of crop management. "Penn State took the lead in this field. It was

the first university to produce a guide, and since then other universities have produced imitations of it."

The guide is used by students in vocational agriculture classes, it is the primary textbook used in two agronomy courses at Penn State. The guides are available for \$5.00

at cooperative extension offices across Pennsylvania. They can also be ordered from the Agricultural Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, Penn State, University Park, Pa. 16802; telephone (814) 865-6713.

PASS Forecasts Drops In Corn, Potato, Tobacco Crops

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's 1988 production figures for corn, potatoes and tobacco are expected to fall below last year, based on November 1 conditions, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

PASS forecast corn for grain production at 61.4 million bushels, 36 percent below last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 990,000 acres with an average yield of 62 bushels per acre.

Maryland-type tobacco grown in Pennsylvania is forecast at 6.5 million pounds, down 13 percent from 1987. Acreage for harvest is expected to be 3,500 and average yield is 1,850 pounds per acre.

Production of Pennsylvania-type tobacco was placed at 13 million pounds, 2 percent below 1987. Acreage for harvest is expected to be 6,500 with an average yield of 2,000 pounds per acre.

Potato production is forecast at 3.7 million cwt., down 22 percent from 1987. An average yield of 180 cwt. is expected from 20,500 acres.

Nationally, corn for grain is forecast at 4.67 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the Oct. 1 forecast but down 34 percent from last

year. Acreage for harvest is set at 56.7 million with an average yield of 82.3 bushels.

The soybean forecast of 1.51 billion bushels is up 1 percent from Oct. 1 but down 21 percent from 1987. Harvest acreage is expected to total 56.8 million with

an average yield of 26.6 bushels.

All tobacco production is forecast at 1.33 billion pounds, down fractionally from Oct. 1 but 12 percent above the 1987 output. Acres for harvest is expected to be 629,900 with an average yield per acre of 2,114 pounds.

NPPC Committee Named To Recommend New CEO

DES MOINES, Ia. - A five-member committee has been selected by the executive committee of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) to review procedures and make recommendations for the transition to a new chief executive officer for the organization which represents America's pork producers. Orville K. Sweet will step down next July from the position he has held since 1979.

NPPC president-elect Don Gingerich, a Parnell, Iowa, pork producer, will serve as chairman of the transition committee. Other members are former NPPC president Ron Kahle of Kearney, NE, former Illinois state association president Jerry King of Victoria, Ill., Bill Adams, a member of the NPPC Board of Directors from Metter, Ga., and Lowell Gemar of Fullerton, N.D. who will serve as

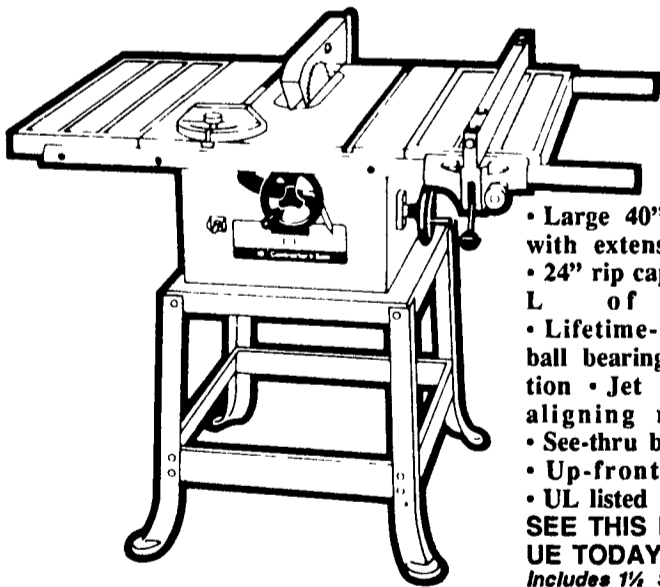
a producer-at-large.

Gingerich said, "The committee will select and recommend to the Executive Committee the best qualified candidate available to carry NPPC into the next century." He set no firm deadline but the Executive Committee has indicated it expects to announce the new chief executive officer at the 1989 Pork Industry Forum, March 1-3 at Kansas City.

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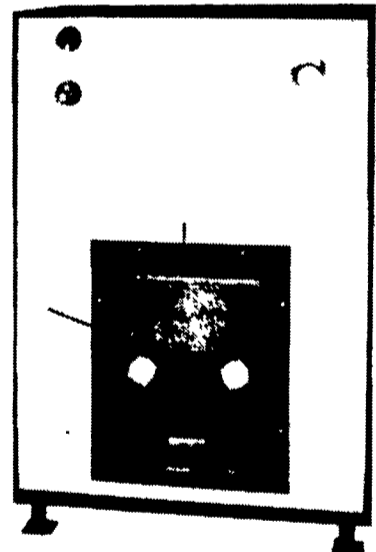
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