

Penn State Supports Crop Management Associations

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre) — Crop Management Associations in 27 Pennsylvania counties have been promoting sound management practices for 10 years. These associations have helped more than 400 member farmers increase their profits and reduce the harmful environmental effects that can result from poorly managed agricultural operations.

The Penn State College of Agriculture provides a number of services to the Crop Management Associations, such as training for new technicians, manuals and newsletters, educational workshops and computer equipment loans. Penn State also provides statewide coordination of Crop Management Association activities through the Pennsylvania Crop Management Association.

At a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Crop Management Association, Al Turgeon, head of the Penn State department of agronomy; Lamartine Hood, dean of the College of Agriculture; and Senator Roger Madigan discussed strategies for strengthening and expanding the Crop Management Associations.

"Financial management, record keeping and continued cooperation with Penn State are critical factors for the continued success of Crop Management Associations," said Turgeon. Stating that "membership doesn't cost, it pays," Turgeon suggested that the associations offer competitive salaries to attract and retain qualified technicians. "Revenue for these salaries," he said, "might be generated by improving scouting efficiency and thus the number of

acres a scout can service, by increasing acreage fees, and possibly by entering into contracts with state agencies to provide nutrient management and integrated pest management plans for farmer members."

Crop Management Associations also may use decision support systems, or "expert systems," being developed by the college to suggest management alternatives based on data from member farms. Association members will be the first to participate in and utilize these systems.

Research conducted by the college on water quality and management, pesticide safety and profitability in agriculture may help the associations deal with issues such as pesticide contamination of food, water and air. Dean Hood

said that present and future research on issues such as these is essential to maintain the strength of the state's agriculture industry.

Crop Management Associations are also supported by the state of Pennsylvania through support for research in critical issues such as drought management. "Such funding," Senator Madigan stressed, "is dependent on input from association members." Madigan urged members to "get involved" in local government issues such as tax dispersal, zoning and sewage and waste water treatment.

To join a Crop Management Association and to find out the name of your local Crop Management Association technician, contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county.

(Continued from Page D24)

291	5	21,212	3.3	710
406	4	19,719	3.3	656
Donald C Shughart				
Honey	5	18,993	3.4	657
Kevin W Fuls				
Nicole	5	18,430	3.5	658
Darma Farms				
70-RC	4	20,758	3.4	724
113-Red	2	20,891	3.1	661
M Thomas Sheaffer				
Ginger	10	21,061	3.6	765
Nathan & Julia Ebersole				
45	5	22,480	3.9	889
69	5	19,845	3.5	705
5	2	17,413	3.9	685
74	3	18,870	3.5	667
Donald M Leatherman				
Angel	10	23,416	3.2	770
Ann	5	21,939	3.4	752
Ruby	3	20,432	3.2	665
Mains Acres				
641	4	24,735	2.7	690
146	1	19,156	3.4	653
Nevin Shughart				
33	8	21,684	3.9	864
73	4	22,559	3.0	685
Robert E Keefer				
314	6	21,679	3.6	783
49	4	19,883	3.7	742

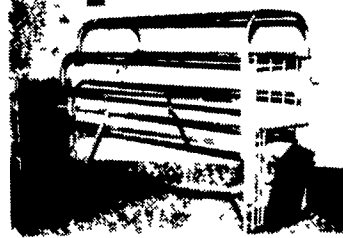
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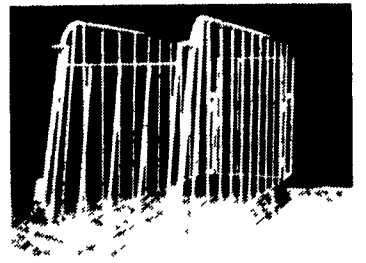
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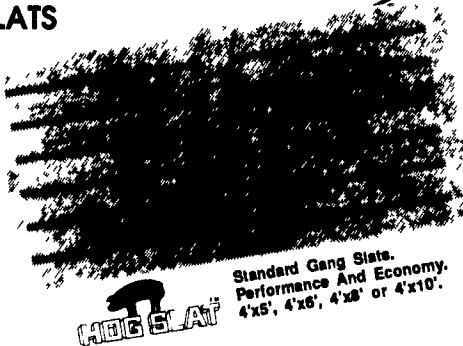
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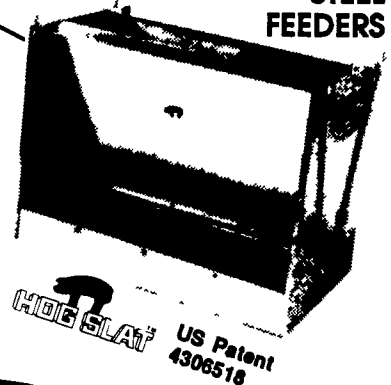
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CONCRETE
SLATS



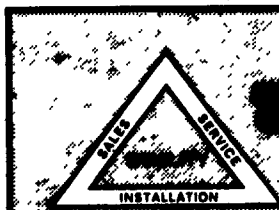
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STEEL
FEEDERS



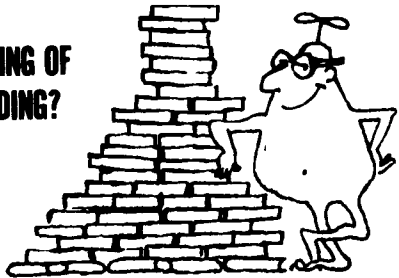
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