

On-Farm Nutrient Management Field Day Planned

HAGERSTOWN, MD — If you want to use commercial fertilizer, animal wastes or sludge more efficiently to grow your crops, and also improve your farm's profitability and protect Maryland's water quality, the solution may be a University of Maryland nutrient management plan. Farmers can learn about these nutrient plans by attending the Western Maryland Ag Field Day Sept. 7.

The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, now offers a nutrient management program to help farmers precisely and effectively use nutrients from a variety of sources.

"Up to one-third of the money invested in growing crops is spent on fertilizer," said Mitch Woodward, a Nutrient Management Specialist for the University of Maryland. This nutrient management program can help farmers

save on fertilizer costs by taking full advantage of nutrients in commercial fertilizers, manure or sludge.

Also, proper application and efficient use of fertilizers reduce the risk of nutrient losses due to leaching or surface runoff, said Woodward. "We all pay the price when nutrients escape from cropland and contaminate ground water and wells, or pollute streams and other surface waters," he said.

A nutrient management plan provides field by field crop fertility recommendations that help farmers achieve maximum economic yields and provides good yearly records of crops and management decisions. Trained consultants answer questions, develop nutrient management plans, and provide personal assistance in collecting soil and manure samples for analysis and calibrating application equipment.

"So far, the 11 management plans implemented in Washington County have saved a total of \$7,800 (an average of \$21 an acre) for the farmers," said Woodward, who encouraged anyone interested in a farm nutrient management plan to attend the Western Maryland Ag Field Day.

Other research tour topics include low-input cropping systems, biological control of thistle, pest management alternatives in alfalfa production, an update on orchard research, and on-farm forestry and wildlife management in Western Maryland. The field day also offers farm equipment demonstrations, corn and soybean variety showcases, and displays of agricultural equipment, farm services and the University of Maryland agricultural programs.

A new addition to the field day, the Mid-Atlantic Fruit Variety Showcase/Tour, runs from 2:30 to

6 p.m. The traditional \$1 hog roast starts at noon. The luncheon speaker is Dr. Archibald Park, Assistant Secretary for Animal Health and Consumer Services, representing Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley Jr.

All events are open to the public. Luncheon reservations are due by August 31 and can be made by calling (301) 791-2298.

To find the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, exit Interstate 70 at Md 65 near Hagerstown. Proceed 7 miles south on Md 65, then turn left on Keedysville Road. The entrance is about one mile down Keedysville Road on the left.

The Western Maryland Ag Field Day is sponsored by the University of Maryland's Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, and the Washington County Ag Demonstrators.

Keystone Farm Appoints Branch Manager

SHOEMAKERSVILLE (Schuylkill Co.)— Robert Evanchalk, a native of Schuylkill County, has been named branch manager of Keystone Farm Credit, ACA's Hegins branch, effective in July.

Evanchalk graduated from Pine Grove High School in Schuylkill Co. and, as a youth, was active in 4-H. Attending Penn State University, he graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in general agriculture.

Evanchalk began his Farm Credit Career in 1984 as a field representative in the Hegins branch office; he was promoted to loan officer in 1985 and to senior loan officer in 1988. Prior to joining Farm Credit, he worked with the State Conservation Commission in Jefferson Co. and Agway, Inc. in Cressona, Schuylkill Co.

Evanchalk resides on a small farm near Pine Grove with his wife and two children who are active 4-H'ers. Evanchalk is a 4-H leader of both the Stampede (Livestock) Club and the Pine Grove Community Club. He is also Supervisor of Agriculture on the Schuylkill Co. Fair Association. The family attends Hetzel's U.C.C.

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