

Conservation Efforts Net Honors For Farmer

ANNAPOLIS, Md.— John Helmstetter, an Allegany County beef farmer, recently received a proclamation from Governor William Donald Schaefer in recognition of his efforts to manage his resources wisely, thereby protecting the environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

The award was received at a dinner held by the Allegany Soil Conservation District in Helmstetter's honor. Rosemary Roswell, assistant secretary at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, presented the proclamation on behalf of the governor and Agriculture Secretary Wayne A. Cawley, Jr.

The Soil Conservation District also awarded Helmstetter with a plaque and special farm sign identifying him as a "Cooperator" with the district.

Helmstetter raises approximately 60 beef cattle on the steep ter-

rain of his 140-acre farm. When financial assistance became available from the Maryland Department of Agriculture to install "best management practices" that protect water quality, Helmstetter as one of the first farmers in the county to participate in the program.

He has installed a number of watering troughs and fencing to keep livestock from polluting farm streams. He also has provided streambank protection by using riprap for stabilization of the soil.

For more information on resource conservation, contact your local Soil Conservation District or the Resource Conservation Office at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, (301) 841-5865.

ASCS Asks Farmers To File Reports

YORK (York Co.)— "We encourage all farmers, whether they participate in farm programs or not, to file an acreage report and protect their crop acreage bases," Roy G. Jackson, member of the York County ASC Committee said.

He said by certifying crop acres, producers establish documentation for future crop acreage bases and also eligibility for different benefits under farm programs, if they decide to participate.

Farm program participants are required to report crops and acreages planted, the uses to be made of these crops, and cropland acres to the ASCS office. They can review aerial photographs of their farm(s) and pinpoint the fields in which the crops are grown. This information is then documented for program compliance and crop acreage bases.

Jackson from Felton stated, "It is mandatory for farmers who are participating in this year's programs to file an acreage report, because without the report, they are not really a program participant." Jackson said the report must be filed in order to determine the level at which producers are eligible for price support loans, deficiency payments and other program benefits.

Jackson stated that, farmers are: June 15 for fall seeded small grains plus oats; July 16 for spring seeded crops, except oats.

"Eligibility for participation in all programs administered by ASCS is established under law without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin or physical handicap."

Ag Hosts Trade Officer

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — As part of the ongoing economic exchange between Maryland and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, the Maryland Department of Agriculture is hosting Darren Rose, a trade officer from the Saskatchewan government.

While in Maryland, Rose is exploring markets for specialty items such as crafts, wild rice, sunflower seeds, noodles (pasta), and bottled spring water available from producers in Saskatchewan.

At the same time, the Maryland Department of Agriculture is making inroads for sale of Maryland products in Canada. For example, the Saskatchewan Liquor Board is importing Elk Run Vineyard's 1988 American Riesling wine. Elk Run Vineyards is located in Mount Airy, Maryland.

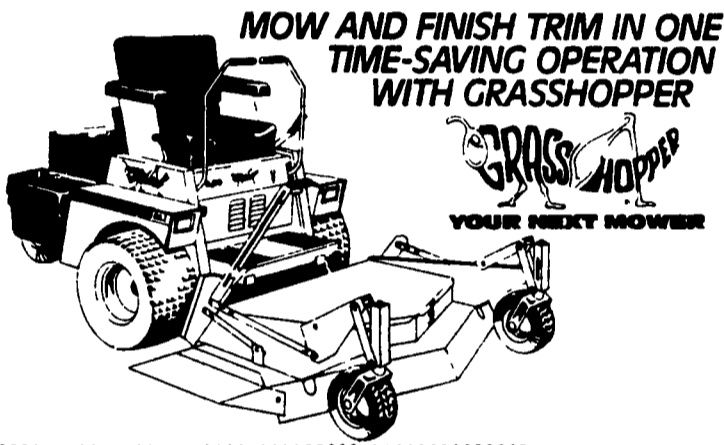
"We at the Maryland Depart-

ment of Agriculture are happy to be able to host Mr. Rose and show him what Maryland has to offer," said Secretary of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley, Jr.

With most trade barriers disappearing between the United States and Canada, Cawley has been in the forefront of exploring the Canadian market for Maryland agricultural products. He has twice visited Saskatchewan and his department has hired a marketing specialist to concentrate on expanding Canadian sales.

For more information on the ongoing exchange between Maryland and Saskatchewan, contact Robert L. Walker, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Md. 21401, (301) 841-5881.

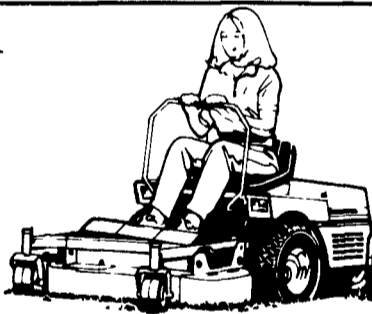
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