

**ROBERT E. LEIBY AND
DAVID L. DUNBAR**
Lehigh Co. Cooperative
Extension Office

This year's Lehigh/Northampton Crops Day will run from 9:15 a.m. until 3 p.m., Tuesday, January 29 at the UGI Auditorium, 2121 City Line Road (just east of ABE Airport), Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, Bethlehem.

Penn State extension specialists and county agents will present a program which will include the following subjects:

- Forage Crop Establishment.
- New Tillage Tools.
- Alternative Field Crops.
- Corn Rootworm.
- Farm Safety.
- Forage Crop Cutting Management.
- New Post-Emergence Corn Herbicides.

You'll be able to earn pesticide applicator recertification credits. No reservations are needed and there is no charge. Lunch will be on your own. Commercial exhibits will also be a part of this event.

Vegetable Conference

Fruit and vegetable growers from across Pennsylvania will gather in Hershey for the annual Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show. The event, which usually attracts more than 1,500 people, will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, January 29 to 31.

University specialists, industry representatives, and growers from Pennsylvania and other states will offer more than 42 presentations during the sessions. More than 100 exhibitors will display the latest in equipment, supplies, pesticides, and varieties for both fruit and vegetable growers at the trade show.

The conference will feature concurrent educational sessions all three days. Tuesday's sessions will cover processing and fresh-market production methods, including disease control, marketing, nutrient management, production systems, and business

management. Bedding plant production and marketing will be the focus on Wednesday, along with a session on general vegetable culture.

Thursday will be devoted to small fruit production and an integrated crop management short course.

In addition to the educational offerings at the conference, several fruit and vegetable growers' organizations will meet. The 132nd annual meeting of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the annual Tomato Awards Luncheon and the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Banquet and annual membership meeting all will be held during the conference.

Registration begins at 7:30 each morning in the main lobby of the Convention Center at West Chocolate Avenue and University Drive in Hershey. Registration fees, which provide admission to the educational sessions and the trade show exhibits, are \$25 for all three days and \$15 for one day.

Additional information on the program can be obtained from Penn State Cooperative Extension offices or the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, Route 1, Box 392, Northumberland, PA 17857-9723, (717) 473-8468.

Dairy

Management Seminars

Dairy farmers interested in improving the profitability of their businesses can find new ideas at the Penn State Dairy Management seminars. The seminars will be held at four locations throughout Pennsylvania in February.

The program will examine several facets of dairy production. Featured speakers will include experts from Penn State and Cornell University.

Thomas Maloney, farm labor specialist at Cornell University, will address the demands of dairy farm labor management. Dr. William Heald, Penn State professor of dairy science, will discuss the most accurate methods of analyzing cow performance.

Rod Martin, president of Martin

Enterprises, a dairy systems planning engineering company in Spring Hill, Florida, will examine strategies to maintain cow comfort. Dr. Larry Hutchinson, professor of veterinary science at Penn State, will discuss managing crises during calving.

Other topics to be addressed at the seminars include dry cow management and early lactation nutritional management. Each seminar will close with a discussion period.

The seminars will be held February 5 in Tunkhannock, February 6 in New Oxford, February 7 in DuBois, and February 8 in Altoona. The \$22 registration fee includes printed proceedings, lunch, and seminar expenses. Pre-registration by January 29 is recommended.

More information and registration forms are available from the Dairy Science Extension Office, 324 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 863-3913.

Keystone

Pork Congress

The Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council will present the 13th Keystone Pork Congress, starting with registration and a trade show at 8 a.m. Wednesday, February 20, Penn Harris Inn, Camp Hill.

Educational offerings will focus on human health risks in swine facilities, hog market outlook, solving manure odor problems, Pseudorabies control, and the Pennsylvania PRV control program. There will also be speaking contests and a Pork Bowl for 4-H and FFA members. The Congress will conclude with a banquet at 6 p.m. Phone (215) 391-9840 to request registration information and forms.

Atrazine Users

Must Be Certified

Farmers and other users of atrazine and products containing atrazine (Bicep, Prozine, etc.) who are not currently certified pesticide applicators will need to become certified if they wish to continue to purchase and apply these products. Under the changes made by the manufacturer and approved by

EPA, these products are now classified as "Restricted Use."

In order to become certified in Pennsylvania, a person needs to pass a written examination that is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

In the Lehigh Valley, this exam may be taken at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of each month at the Lehigh County Agricultural Center, 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown. Pre-register for the exam by phoning (215) 489-1003.

A study guide for the certification exam is available from county extension offices for \$14.

Applicators who are using atrazine products and are already certified should become aware of other changes in the label. Here's a summary of major changes:

- These products must not be applied through any irrigation system.

- Maximum amount per year on corn and sorghum is three pounds active ingredient.

- Application to corn and sorghum exceeding 12 inches in height is prohibited.

- Under "Storage and Disposal," the label recommends permanent liquid bulk storage sites be diked and floored with an impermeable material to reduce the possibility of groundwater contamination.

- The label includes protective clothing requirements.

- These products may not be mixed, loaded, or used within 50 feet of all wells, including abandoned wells, drainage wells, and sink holes.

- For non-selective weed control on non-crop land, the maximum rate is 10 pounds per acre.

CCC Interest Rate Lowered

Commodity loans disbursed in January by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will carry a 7-1/8 percent interest rate, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

The 7-1/8 percent interest rate is down from December's 7-3/8 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in January.

Any outstanding 1981 loans and subsequent crop commodity loans and any outstanding facility loans approved and disbursed on or after April 1, 1981 and before January 1, 1991 will accrue interest at a rate of 7-1/8 percent per year during 1991. This interest rate is subject to adjustment each January 1.

Vegetable Seed Storage

Both high temperature and high relative humidity will reduce seed germination and vigor. Do not store seeds in areas that have a combined temperature and humidity value greater than 100 (i.e., 55 F + 60 percent relative humidity). Ideal temperature/moisture conditions for most seeds are 32 F and 40 percent relative humidity. In addition, primed seed do store well after shipment to the buyer. Do not carry over-primed seed to the following year.

Corn, pea, and bean seed are especially susceptible to mechanical damage due to rough handling. Bags of these seed should not be dropped or thrown, since the seed coats and embryos can crack, resulting in a nonviable seed. If you plan to treat these seeds with a fungicide, inoculum, or other coating, use only gentle agitation to avoid seed damage.

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