

Farm Credit Members Tour Farms

MERCER (Mercer Co.) — Members of the board of directors and personnel of the Farm Credit Bank of Baltimore recently visited

western Pennsylvania, touring area farms of members of Penn West Farm Credit ACA (Agricultural Credit Association).



Erie grape producer John Moorhead explains the careful cultivation of wine grapes on his North East farm. From left, Gene Swackhamer, president of Farm Credit Bank of Baltimore; Ed Lippy, chairman of the board of directors; and John Moorhead, farmer.

DROUGHT WATCH

(Continued from Page D3) involved in a problem. This test is available from Toxitest Inc., 6504 Burlington Road, P.O. Box 280, Whitsett, NC 27377. Blood testing is considered more definitive for prussic acid or cyanide poisoning. Qualitative testing using the Toxitest kit is available at the Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation Center at Penn State.

• Silo Gas Poisoning: The risk

of nitrogen oxide gas formation always is greater with drought conditions. This is more dangerous to both humans and animals than nitrate toxicity. Drought-stricken alfalfa and other legumes may create nitrogen oxide gases, especially if harvested soon after a drought-breaking rain. Precautions should be taken to prevent silo gas poisoning as silos are filled this summer or fall.

"The purpose of the tour is for board members to learn more about the agriculture of the region, visit with borrowers, and become better acquainted with personnel," said Bank President Gene Swackhamer, who participated in the tour.

Participants sampled experimental table grapes following a tour of the John Moorhead vineyard in North East. The Moorheads raise 55 acres of Concord grapes for juice and 25 varieties of wine grapes on an additional 30 acres.

They saw how Troyer Farms potato chips are made at the processing plant near Waterford.

Calvin Ernst explained the

operation of his crownvetch and specialty-seed operation in Crawford County.

Richard Kind of Grassycrest Farm, Lawrence County, explained how his family has been able to farm reclaimed surface mined areas on their farm and the conservation measures that were taken to make it possible.

Lamb producer John Jamison,

Westmoreland County, illustrated his marketing techniques with samples of several lamb dishes. He also explained the rotational grazing system used to feed the lambs.

The tour concluded at the dairy operation of bank board member William Jackson, Fayette County, who represents the York and Penn West Farm Credit board region.

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