

Association Applauds Family Farms

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a tornado. That same year, the Mussers rebuilt the house for 90,000 birds, and Jeff left the partnership. In 1986, Jim and Sue purchased the farm and with their sons, Matt, Brett, Dustin, and Cody continue to raise layers.

Environmental concerns

Extension agent Leon Ressler opened up the day-long seminar by encouraging farmers to prepare for water shortages before a severe drought forces them to make emergency changes in poultry operations.

Ressler said that the Palmer Hydrological Drought Index indicates that the area might be in a 30-year drought pattern. Water conservation steps should be taken now to make sure water equipment is not dripping or clogged with particles.

For those using a misting system for cooling, he suggests, that water use be reduced and that water not suitable for drinking purposes be used. The switch to an air cooling system is suggested.

Now is also the time, for farmers to consult a hydrogeologist to do fracture trace mapping to locate the best water supply on the prop-

erty if another well needs to be dug.

Nutrient management with alternative crops is another environmental issue farmers must face.

"We need more suppliers for manure marketing," Ressler stressed. He said that studies show that the U.S. phosphate supply will last only 20 to 25 years.

"If we can hang in another 20 years, I think phosphorus will become valuable," Ressler said.

Composting poultry

Dr. John Schwartz, county extension director, explained the

necessity of proper composting techniques for daily poultry mortality.

"If farmers can't do composting from a tractor seat, it probably won't get done," Schwartz said. A bin that can be reached by a tractor to scoop the birds and compost material should be constructed.

Studies show that the most effective compost area must have a roof and a concrete floor to eliminate leeching into the soil. Pressure treated lumber should be used to construct bins with a maximum 5 feet high by 8 feet wide and a 6 feet depth.

The compost recipe needs 1/4 times more chicken manure than

dead chicken material with .10 carbon such as straw, shredded newspapers, or leaves. Although air is needed in the compost pile, a properly constructed compost pile will not have fly, rodent, odor or snooping animal problems.

If there is at least six to eight inches of manure on top of dead poultry, it will keep animals from digging in the area.

Temperatures indicate that after 7 to 10 days the compost should be turned or put into a second bin for at least 30 days before spreading on the field.

Several county farmers have built compost bins for a cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000. Government cost sharing funds are available for up to 50 percent of the cost.

Rodent control

Since rodents are heavy carriers of salmonella, rat and mouse control has become a prime concern of poultry farmers.

With infrared filming of poultry houses, Larry Kendall of Purina Mills showed how severe rodent problems can become on farms.

"It's an ongoing challenge that takes commitment and knowledge to rid rodents from your operation," Kendall said. "Research shows that poultry feed is the hardest thing to get rodents to leave and eat bait."

To entice rodents, bait must be more palatable than poultry feed and be placed between rodents and the feed supply because rodents will not go out of their way to find bait.

Kendal explained the different types of bait used and how it causes rodents to die and the necessity to use safety precautions when applying it.

Other concerns

Other topics addressed during

the day-long seminar included the following:

- Ventilating curtain sided poultry houses by Dr. William Weaver, professor and head of poultry science at Penn State.

- The 6/85 strain — a new live vaccine for mycoplasma gallisepticum by Dr. Keith Honegger.

- Update on how the Chamber of Commerce is working for farmers to create a favorable environment, by Jay Howes, manager of Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

- Egg promotion for the 90s by Kathy Matusik, American Egg Board in Illinois.

- Are we going to put animal interests ahead of people rights? by Cathleen Marquardt, chair and found of Putting People First.

The annual Poultry Progress Day was sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Lancaster County Poultry Association.

PCA Sets Annual Meeting

ELKLAND (Tioga Co.)— The Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association (PCA) annual meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, State College, on Friday, March 27, at 6 p.m.

The annual banquet will follow at 7 p.m. with a social hour beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is for the election of directors, by-laws changes, and any other business which may come before it.

The 1992 Nominating Committee Chairman is Ray Grimes, P.O. Box 38, McKnightstown, PA 17343, (717) 334-1022. Other committee members are Mike Firestone, Glenn Eberly, Woody Kyper, Bill Palmer, and Bob Hay.

Advance Notice Dairy Dispersal

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27 Cows - 17 Red & White - Including 2 Enhancers And Other Top Bulls DHI-RHA 18,200M On R&W's, 19,900 On B&W's, Young Herd - 8 Bred Heifers, 11 Open & Started Calves.

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Real Estate 11:00 A.M.

2 Auctioneers Will Be Selling Simultaneously Throughout The Day. Extra Large Auction.

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MARCH 14, 1992**

1655 Oliver Tractor w/Cab, Semi. Mt. 18" Oliver 4 Bt. Plow, 706 Int. gas Tractor, 930 Case w/wide Frt. End, Int. Baler w/Thrower, Int. 531 Plow 3 B 14", Gravity Box w/JD running Gears, JD Mower w/belt Dr., JD 4 Row Corn Planter w/Monitor, Int. Super C, Tractor, JD 700 Grinder Mixer, 555 New Hol. Skidsteer, 275 New Hol. Baler/like new, New Idea Baler, 1 Row Xmas Tree Planter, Brady Chisel Plow, IH Hay Conditioner, IH 46 Baler, Paper Fg. Wagon, New Hol. 40' Elevator, Oliver 4 Bottom Semi-Mt. Plow, JD 12' Harrow, New Idea Trail Mower, MF 4 Row 3 St. Cult., Oliver 4340 3 Bottom Trail Plow, IH Grain Drill, Dunham 10' Cultimulcher, MF 3 Point Latch Rake, IH 14' Cultimulcher, 6'-3 Pt. Snowblower/used once, JD FBB Grain Drill, Oliver 1550 Tractor, Farmall 560 Tractor, New Idea 10' Limespreader, Case 580 B, Backhoe, New Idea 323 Corn Picker- 1 row, Neh. Hol. 479 Haybine, IH 37 Baler, Kuhn 13' Hay Tedder, 1980 U Model Mack/5 Spd. 2 Over/New Paint/Needs Minor Repairs/Bank Repo. (Selling to settle Estate very, very clean, 1981 Int. Dump truck/1990 S/32,000 G.V.W./18,000 mi./10' Bed, 1990 Hudson Bros. Trailer M #HTD18D/with 4 tandem wheels/23,850 G.V.W./9 ton, JD 350 C Dozer/6 way blade/winch 2754 hours, JD 450 Highlift/2,433 hours, end), IN 450 Tractor w/side mower & Plows, Front Blade for Ford Tractor, 5' Wood Finisher Mower, Case 448 Lawn Tractor 18 hrp./16" Mower, NI 323 Corn Picker, Central Tractor 3 pt. Hitch Back Blade, HD Steel Welders Bed fits 1 Ton Truck, White 270 Tractor Clean Low Hours New Tires, 2- 2 Horse Bumper Hitch Trailer, 1- 12 Foot Bumper Hitch Stock Trailer, 1- 16 Foot Goose Neck Stock Trailer, AC Combine w/Bin, NH 69 Hay Baler, 24 Ft. Hay Elevator 1 Row NI Corn Picker, 13 Hoe Ont. Grain Drill, 2 Row MF Corn Planter, 36 Side Delivery MF Hay Rake, MF Hay Crimper, 325 NH Manure Spreader, Flail Chopper, Allis Chalmers WD 45, 2 Sets Cultivators Allis Chalmers Hitch To 3 Pt. Hitch, 2 Bottom Plows, Slickly Bar Mower X-Mas Tree Planter, Hay Wagon, Spring Tooth Harrow, 2 Tool Boxes For Pickup, Fuel Tanks For Pickup, Truck Load Of Used Tools Shovels, etc... Horse Drawn Equipment, Allis Chalmers W C Tractor, Hammermill, NI 7 Foot Trail Mower, Electric Hoists, Allis Chalmers WD 45 Tractor, Set Of Cultivators For IHC Tractor, 3 Section Spring Tooth Harrow, 1979 Chevy 1/2 Ton 2WD Truck, Lots Of Tires, Wheels, Etc.

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