

Satellite Seminars Address Crop Production

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Farmers and other agribusiness people can learn about profitable and environmentally sound forage and grain crop production during a series of satellite seminars in January and February.

Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and distributed through AG*SAT, a satellite education consortium, the seminars will be downlinked and offered at several locations in Pennsylvania and across the nation. Participants can receive pesticide certification credits from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

"In 1991, grain and forage producers experienced drought conditions throughout much of the Northeast," said Lynn Hoffman, senior research associate in agronomy and coordinator of the teleconferences.

"In 1992, cool, wet conditions delayed harvest and caused different pest problems. The satellite seminars will give producers a chance to ask specific questions about their situations and get advice to help them make sound decisions for 1993."

The first seminar, to be held January 18 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., will cover forage crops. The opening hour will address crop establishment, including seed selection, seedbed preparation, lime and fertilizer, selection of favorable seeding dates and sound seeding techniques. The segment also will include a discussion on management practices to ensure thick, vigorous stands that will produce high yields of top-quality pasture, silage or hay.

The second hour will focus on pest management for forage crops. Specialists will discuss control practices for major insect, weed and disease pests in alfalfa and alfalfa/grass mixtures. Pest management for preplanting, at planting, post-planting, and established stands will be covered.

A seminar on grain crops will be held January 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. A one-hour segment on

crop establishment will cover crop residue management, soil crusting, adjusting drills and planters, evaluating stands, managing starter fertilizers and avoiding herbicide problems.

Grain pest management will be the topic for the second segment. The discussion will cover basic principles for managing the major weed, disease and insect pests in summer annual grains, primarily corn.

The forage crop seminar will be repeated February 9 and the grain crop seminar will be offered again on February 15. On both dates, the crop establishment segments will run from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the pest management portions will be offered from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The pest management segments of both seminars will be combined and offered again on February 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

All segments will feature a pre-recorded video portion and a live question and answer session. Audience members can call a toll-free number to ask questions of specialists in the University Park studio.

County extension staff will coordinate seminar downlink sites. Local crop programs may be offered at some sites in conjunction with the satellite program.

New York, Ontario Ag Leaders Talk Policy

ITHACA, N.Y. — Members of the fourth class of the New York Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute journeyed to Canada recently to meet with colleagues in Ottawa, Ontario.

The occasion marked the first ever joint Canadian American Agricultural Leadership Seminar. Agribusiness representatives and agricultural producers from New York and Ontario were treated to in-depth presentations on subjects ranging from the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement and GATT to Canada's recent national referendum.

The three-day seminar, hosted by Ontario's Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program, gave American participants a firsthand look at the Canadian government and political process, United States-Canadian trade relations, and Ontario's agriculture industry.

The joint program offered an ideal opportunity for participants to share their unique perspectives on different social and agricultural systems. Although the neighboring ag industries are similar in

many respects in terms of commodities produced and overall trade contribution, Canadian dairy and poultry producers have been controlled by a supply management system since the mid-1960s.

Seminar speakers included acting members of Canada's House of Commons, representatives

from the United States Embassy, and officials from Agriculture Canada, a federal body similar to the United States Department of Agriculture.

The next seminar scheduled for members of the Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute will take place in Batavia, New York, and will focus on local

government and rural issues. Participants will have the opportunity for advanced study of our legislative and political process when they travel to Albany and Washington D.C. in 1993.

For more information, contact Dr. Brian Earle, director, LEAD, NY, at (607) 255-7907.

Regional Meetings Set

YORK (York Co.) — The Farm and Natural Lands Trust will host a series of regional meetings on land preservation economics, tax benefits, protection programs, and alternatives during December.

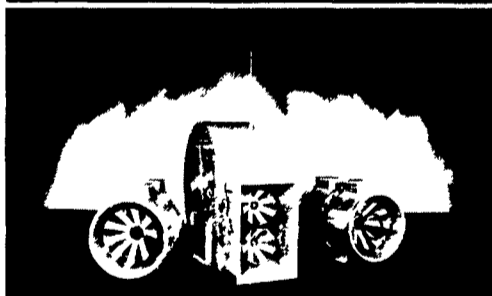
The meetings are scheduled for the following: Monday, Dec. 7 at Lower Windsor Township build-

ing; Wednesday, Dec. 9 at Spring Grove Borough building; Thursday, Dec. 10 at Dover Township building; Monday, Dec. 14 at East Manchester Township building; and Tuesday, Dec. 15 at Southeastern Middle School. All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. There

is no registration fee.

The public is invited to attend the meetings, which should be of special interest to landowners, accountants, and estate planners. For further information, call the Farm and Natural Lands Trust at (717) 757-7012.

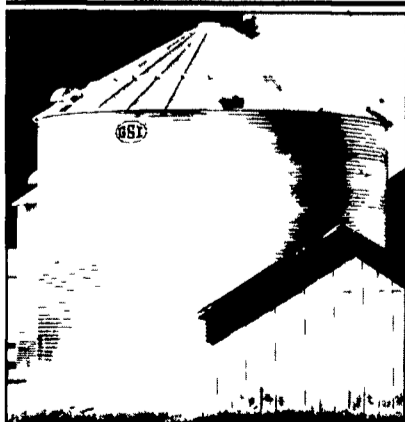
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