Western Pa. Sets Fruit Growers Meeting

GREENSBURG (Westmoreland Co.) - The Western Pennsylvania Commercial Fruit

Growers Seminar will be held on Tuesday, December 15, at the Holiday Inn Airport near greater



(Continued from Page C15)

Are You Comfortable?

The farm manager should be comfortable with the farm records system. He/she should be able to change or adjust and individualize the system to make it "fit" his or her unique farm.

When the system controls the operator, this leads to frustration, dissatisfaction, and finally inadequate records, which often results in poor decisions.

> Are You Getting Your Money's Worth?

Obviously, the most expensive

farm record systems are not necessarily the best.

Determine the features you want in a record system and then select the system and/or individual that most economically provides the required features. An expensive system that includes features never used by the farm manager inflates the cost of record keeping with no contribution to more efficient management of the farm business.

Finally, the process of finding a system that economically meets your needs takes time, so start talking to your neighbors, accountant, banker, and extension agent today. Remember to shop around - just as you would when making any other purchase.

Pittsburgh Airport, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Speakers from universities and private industry will discuss production practices, marketing, pest management, and other topics.

The education sessions will emphasize commercial production of tree fruit and berries. Dr. Richard Funt, Ohio State, will discuss "Pre-Plant Site Preparation" and "Economic Comparison of Apple Orchard Planting Systems." Dr. Carl Felland, entomologist from the Penn State Fruit Research Laboratory, will discuss "Ground Covers and Their Effect on Orchard Insect Populations" and "Insect and Insecticide Management Programs."

Dr. Barbara Goulart, Penn State Department of Horticulture, will give growers an "Update on Weed Control for Strawberries" and the latest information on "Blueberry Growing for Pennsylvania Conditions." There will also be a report on demonstration plantings of brambles and strawberries in western Pennsylvania.

Carl Brown, farm labor specialist with the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, will discuss the farm labor situation.

The morning session will be a general session with information that applies to all fruit growers. After lunch, sessions will be split into separate rooms for tree fruit and berry growers.

If you are involved in, or seriously considering commercial fruit growing, plan to attend the seminar. To register or for more information, contact Penn State Extension, Westmoreland County, Box 250, Greensburg, PA 15601, (412) 837-1402 or any Penn State extension office in western Pennsylvania.

Corn Ear Molds Threaten Feed, Grain Sales

GOLDEN VALLEY, Minn. — Whether this year's corn crop is already harvested or still in the field, growers need to assess the presence of ear molds.

The pathogens responsible for ear molds persist in soils under continuous corn or a corn-soybean rotation, said Dan Coffin, Northrup King Co. agronomist.

Wet weather and delayed maturity triggered this year's infection," Coffin said. "Slow plant development kept grain moisture mold then develops on the infectlevels up late in the season and recent rain and snow soaked plants still in the field. Both conditions facilitated ear mold development.'

Growers should look for three forms of ear rot. Diploida spreads from the butt end, leaving a lightweight and completely rotted cob. Fusarium causes a salmon-pink to reddish-brown kernel discoloration — powdery or cottony-pink ed kernels. Gibberella, or red ear rot, begins at the tip and consumes the ear, causing husks to adhere tightly to cobs. Pink mold may also grow between the husk and

"If growers suspect molds were present in their corn crop, they need to check levels in their grain. Ear molds not only reduce yields but also affect the feed value of the grain," Coffin said.

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