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Tillage Practices Topic At Carlisle Conference

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

engineer at the National Soil Tilth Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, said farmers should take time to reconsider how and why they apply conventional tillage practices in their overall soil management at the 19th annual Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference at the Embers Inn on Thursday.

Colvin spoke about the conclu-

sions drawn by several researchers in the last several years about the detrimental affects conventional tillage has on soil physical structure and other properties.

This is especially true in light of the cool, wet weather. According to Lynn Hoffman, Penn State agronomist, many parts of the state still have corn in the fields. Lynn spoke

at the deep tillage session on when and why to use deep tillage. When the corn is harvested, the cool, wet ground will compact easier and more severely.

And those compaction problems, according to Lynn, will have to be dealt with in the spring — if the weather turns dry by then.

Hoffman said, for deep tillage,

conditions must be "dry to powder" in order to shatter the pan and keep further compaction from occurring.

Also, farmers must be wary of using heavy equipment on the moist, cool ground. They should take more time to look at the overall management — rather than till the whole field, till only the areas that are compacted by the heavy tractors and trucks, such as end rows and headlands.

"When we're young, we think some of the things we see are brand new," said Colvin, who said that deep tillage equipment has been used throughout farming history, with various degrees of success. He mentioned a patent obtained from a company in 1892 in Lancaster, Wis. for a deep till blade on a walk-behind plow.

"Every time we have a drought, we have interest in deep tillage," he said. Farmers should try to understand that tillage is like surgery, and deep tillage like open-heart surgery. It is more of an art

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Ag Chemical Disposal Program Expanded

NEWMANSTOWN (Lebanon Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff today announced the addition of seven new counties to CHEMSWEEP, a disposal program that helps farmers get rid of unwanted chemicals.

Centre, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Schuylkill, Somerset, Westmoreland, and Wyoming counties are being added to the program that enables farmers, Christmas tree growers, mushroom producers, nurserymen, greenhouse operators, fish hatchery managers and others to dispose of pesticides free of charge.

"This program gives growers a chance to protect humans and the environment without the costly bills that can come from disposal of even small amounts of hazardous materials," Wolff said. "The collections are funded through registration fees paid by chemical

manufacturers, so there is no cost to farmers or to taxpayers."

Applications for the program will be mailed to most farmers in the participating counties and also will be available from county extension offices and the state Department of Agriculture.

CHEMSWEEP originated as a pilot program in six counties in November 1991. Collections in Bedford, Fulton, Lebanon, Lehigh, Snyder and Union counties are underway and should be completed this year.

It is estimated that farmers in



Daniel Hogeland, Newmans town, Lebanon County, and Boyd Wolff, Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture at Hogeland's 40 acre produce farm where the CHEMSWEEP program was in operation to help farmers get rid of unwanted chemicals.

Curator Says Present Agriculture To Become Obsolete

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.)—Because of genetic manipulation, the curator of agriculture at the Smithsonian Institute told farm leaders the principle plants and animals of the future don't exist today. Dr. G. Terry Sharrer spoke to the Ag Issues Forum on Thursday morning.

In a quiet voice, but with ideas that captured great imagination, Sharrer asked what it would mean if you could produce 2,000 bushels of corn per acre, or 300 bushels of soybeans. What if your cows gave 55,000 pounds of milk per year or your sows had 35 piglets per litter

and raised nine out of ten to market on 1.6 pounds of feed per pound of gain? Or what if you could raise five pound broilers in 21 days?

Sharrer said even now biotechnology has produced the first models that will make these production figures possible. For example, each type of plant is controlled by a gene that gives optimum growth according to temperature. If you put the gene for growth from a plant that does well in a cool climate into a plant that needs warm weather, you increase the capability of the warm growing plant to grow in a cooler climate. By inserting the "biological thermostat" or cold hardiness of winter rye into

the wheat plant, wheat can be grown as far north as Siberia. A great northern bread basket can then open in the former Soviet Union and Canada, and world production can dramatically increase.

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Rejoice

The holy night when Christ was born returns again next week to embrace mankind. We, the Lancaster Farming staff, wish you a very joyous Christmas and a very rewarding new year!

Holiday Deadlines

The Lancaster Farming office will be closed Friday December 25 in observance of Christmas day. Early deadlines will be followed the week of Christmas. These deadlines are as follows:

Public Sale Ads — 5 p.m., Fri., 12/18.

Mailbox Markets — 5 p.m., Fri., 12/18.

General News — Noon, Tue., 12/22.

Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Mon., 12/21.

All Other Classified Ads — 9 a.m., Tue. 12/22.

The Lancaster Farming office will also be closed Friday, January 1 in observance of New Years day. Early deadlines will be followed the last week of December as follows:

Public Sale Ads—Noon, Thur., 12/24.

Mailbox Markets—Noon, Thur., 12/24.

General News—Noon Tue. 12/29.

Classified Section C Ads—5 p.m., Mon. 12/28.

All Other Classified Ads—9 a.m., Tue. 12/29.



A well drilling near Ronks. The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Resources, and other agencies remind farmers to inspect wells, especially at the casing. Ask your well driller for information about the casing in your well — their original records will prove useful and important. See story on page A29.