

PA Crop Management

(Continued from Page A36)

Committee Report emphasizing the following:

- a reaffirmation of the College of Agriculture's commitment to Pennsylvania Agriculture.

- a continuation of commitment to the youth of Pennsylvania through 4-H as a major force in youth development. Schutjer said 4-H across the nation is the largest youth program in the United States.

- a commitment to community and economic development for the 3 million rural people in Pennsylvania.

- The Pennsylvania Economic Development Department will provide technology available to medium and small businesses, employee management, and cooperatives.

- Family Living Programs will focus less on services provided by other local agencies.

Schutjer urged all to see Pennsylvania's number one industry, agriculture, to include processing and distribution, to see it as a food system.

That food system should have long term sustainability, where those outside of agriculture understand, and will not make agriculture difficult. The food system has to work in that political dimension.

Going on, Schutjer said the food system has to be environmentally sustainable, where technology and management is consistent with environmental goals. It also has to be economically sustainable for producers - farmers need to be paid.

Schutjer called the Crop Management Program the hallmark of crop management because it fits into all three requirements, is economically, environmentally, and politically sustainable.

Walt Peechatka, Pennsylvania's Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs, is responsible for all regulatory programs in the five Bureaus of the Department - Animal Industry, Food Safety, Plant Industry, Rides and Measurement Standards, and Dog Law.

He addressed the cooperative efforts of the Department of Agriculture, Penn State, and the Crop Management Association.

Peechatka outlined the strides made including:

- Pennsylvania's outstanding reputation for pest management
- the Department of Agriculture gave high priority to the Inte-

grated Pest Management Program, increased educational materials on it, and increased research funding at Penn State

- implemented a One Plan concept where the farm plans of federal, state and local agencies were integrated into one plan

- instituted a new agency called the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture which works closely with the Department of Agriculture and Penn State.

- Certified Crop Advisor Program

- the Agriculture Committee's response to environmental issues

Peechatka said future challenges require collective attention, including,

- the proposal of solutions rather than reacting to them

- involving the private sector in finding solutions

- setting high standards of ethics to produce high quality products

- getting the One Plan concept implemented statewide

- focusing research on gaps in Integrated Pest Management

- has urged agriculture to chart its own course on environmental issues

Don Unangst of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) said the job of the ASCS is to administer the farm programs, provide funding, and administer loan programs, all of which change daily with the new administration.

Unangst said the restructuring program is the process of looking at what we're doing and what it is costing in reference to the services provided. He originally recommended the closing or combining of 6 or 7 county offices, but Washington added 12 offices to that.

Integrated Crop Management Special Practice 53 began as a trial program in 13 counties in Pennsylvania, a cost-sharing program that, in 1991, involved 100 farms with 11,427 acres with \$69,000 cost-share payments.

Al Turgeon is Professor and head of the Department of Agronomy at Penn State. He attends to the administration of all research, teaching, and extension programs as well as the management of all personnel and physical resources. He serves as project leader for the Crop Management Program and discussed information technology in agriculture.

Future technology for learning includes:

- computer technology relayed to an overhead projector for classroom instruction

- installing lessons into learning centers for students to go through by themselves

- forming modeling programs, such as the Stella Program designed by Turgeon, where students can simulate processes of what actually happens out in the field (i.e. the breakdown of manure nitrogen into Nitrate Nitrogen)

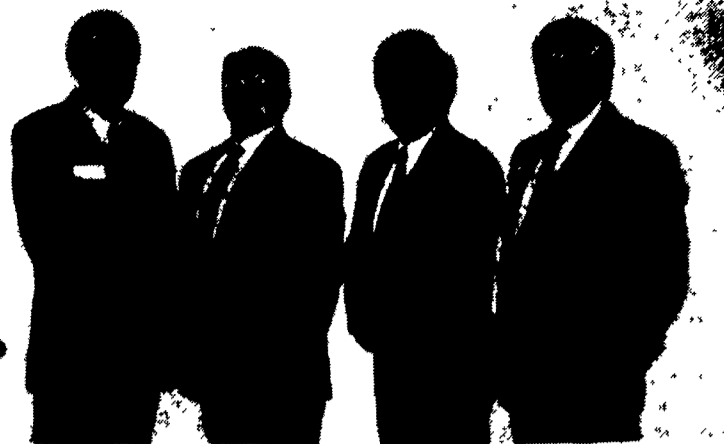
- availability of these technologies to County Extension Offices

Chris Reaver gave her Crop Management Consultant Report. She hopes the future sees a Certified Crop Advisor Exam whereby Crop Advisors can then write nutrient management plans for farms.

Bill Brubaker is Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Agronomic Products Association (PAPA), whose membership consists of individuals and firms engaged in the retail sale of agronomic products or services to production agriculture. Its main objectives are to offer educational opportunities to members, present a unified position for them, and establish and maintain positive working relationships with Penn State, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Penn Ag Industries Association, and allied state and national associations. Brubaker spoke on Nutrient Management Legislation and the Certified Crop Advisor Program.

Brubaker encouraged everyone to get copies of the nutrient management bill because as agricultural leaders, we must be literate should any questions arise from the non-farm sector. He complimented the One Plan program where information can flow to the farmer through one advisor to weld the government programs together as one.

Brubaker provided sign-up forms for the Certified Crop Advisor Program test to be administered on August 6, 1993. The American Society of Agronomy sees the need for uniform standards and requires non-college applicants to have four years field experience, Associate Degree candidates to have three years experience, and Bachelor Degree candidates to have two years experience. The other key part of the test, Brubaker said, is the code of ethics. A review program is being offered at Penn State June 23 and 24.



At the Pa. Crop Management meeting are from left, Dr. Wayne Schutjer; John Ligo; Walt Peechatka, and Bob Herbst.

Barry Frantz is the One Plan Project Coordinator for Pennsylvania who works with both the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Service. The One Plan is a resource management plan that takes into account all aspects of the farm operation and enables the grower to reasonably comply with applicable government programs and regulations.

Some of the general project objectives include eliminating conflicts between resource management recommendations for individual farms, integrating resource management planning efforts of state and federal agencies, simplifying management of natural resources, saving planning time and implementation costs, providing for protection of a

farm's natural resources, helping farmers comply with state and federal regulatory programs, facilitating implementation of sustainable agriculture practices intended to protect the environment, integrating crop management and water quality protection, and developing a model, integrated resource management plan for national application.

Local agencies and organizations involved would be the SCS, ASCS, Cooperative Extension, DER (Chesapeake Bay Program), Pa. Game Commission, Pa. Fish and Boat Commission, Crop Management Associations, Private Crop Consultants, Fertilizer/Pesticide Dealers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A final report and recommendations on the One Plan project due out in September.

DHIA Records Meetings In Southeast Pennsylvania

WALTER B. WURSTER
Extension Agent/Dairy
Penn State Cooperative
Extension/Chester County
WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — There will be a series of PA DHIA workshops held in Southeastern Pennsylvania from February 22 to 26, 1993. They will be 2½ hour afternoon or evening sessions conducted by County Extension Agents and PA DHIA staff. With all the changes that have occurred in reports and programs, it is very important for DHIA members to attend the workshop in their area. The dates and locations are:

- Monday, February 22, 12:30-3:00 p.m. - Russellville Grange, Chester County.

- Tuesday, February 23, 12:30-3:00 p.m. - Tulpehocken High School Ag Center, Berks County.

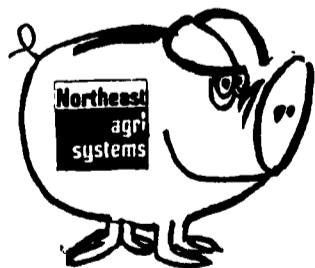
- Wednesday, February 24, 12:30-3:00 p.m. - Neshaminy Manor Center, Bucks County.

- Thursday, February 25, 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - Pleasantville Park Diner, Berks/Montgomery Counties.

- Thursday, February 25, 7:30-10:00 p.m. - Kutztown High School Ag Center, Berks County.

(Turn to Page A39)

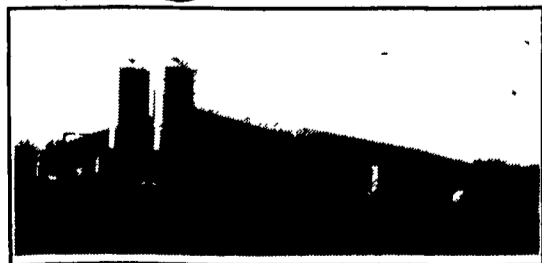
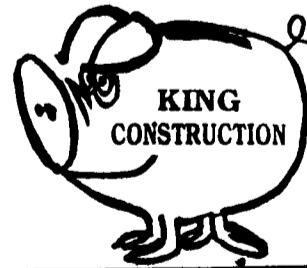
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