

Western Maryland Ag Field Day Sept. 9

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Whoever said learning can't be fun never attended the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station's (MAES) Western Maryland Ag Field Day at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center.

This year's field day, scheduled for Sept. 9, will feature informational tours of MAES research, Cooperative Extension Service demonstrations, farm service dis-

plays, and nutritional demonstrations.

Concurrent Wagon Tours of MAES research will be featured from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tours will highlight paulownia tree management, nutrient management and the bay, high yield wheat management, crop residue management, pathogen and parasite control of leafhopper, and weed control in corn.

Farm tillage and planting equipment demonstrations will be held

from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Home Economics Program will run from 9 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. Topics of the program include the new food label; lowfat dips and toppings; eating with children — positive mealtimes; nutrition on the run; from market to kitchen; and the importance of grain in the diet.

Agriculture displays will offer an opportunity to examine the latest agricultural equipment, browse through field plots of different corn and soybean varieties, visit with seed company representatives, and view MAES educational publications and displays.

Enjoy a hog roast featuring Maryland pork from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Lunch is available for a \$2 fee paid the day of the event. Preregistration is required for the lunch and all registration forms must be received by Sept. 1.

To reach the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, take exit I-70 at Maryland Route 65 near Hagerstown. Proceed south for 7 miles on Maryland Route 65 and turn left onto Keedysville Road. The center

entrance is about one mile east on the left.

For more information about the Western Maryland Ag Field Day,

contact either your local cooperative extension agent or the Western Maryland Research and Education Center at (301) 791-2298.

CLASSIFIEDS



Varner Wins Shippensburg 4-H Contest

BETH MILLER
Cumberland Co.
Correspondent

SHIPPENSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — Brad Varner was the big winner during the 1993 4-H and FFA Dairy Judging Contest held at the Shippensburg Fair.

Varner captured first place in the senior contest of the judging competition, which had a total of 39 contestants.

Jeff Reasner was the official judge for the contest, which was open to 4-H and FFA members who were 14 years old and older.

Each of the participants had 10 minutes to do their judging for each of three classes of Holsteins. The classes were heifers, senior yearlings, and 3-year-olds.

All the animals the 4-H and FFA members judged were provided by exhibitors at the fair.

Second place in the senior judging competition went to Melanie Dietrich, with Brad Reichard taking third place, Julie Dyarman in fourth, Heath Ocker in fifth, Mandy Deagle in sixth, Emily Dietrich in seventh, Craig Walton and Dale Beidel tied for eighth and Matthew Day in the ninth spot.

Michelle Ocker was the top winner in the junior judging competition for FFA and 4-H members under 14 years old.

Dawn Ickes was the second place winner, followed by Ian Dietrich in third, Benjamin Mickey in fourth, Becky Cornman in fifth, Curtis Reichard in sixth, Sarah Day in seventh, Thomas Harwood in eighth, Ty Christman in ninth, and Christian Mickey in tenth.

The awards for the contest were provided by Mellon Bank. They were distributed by Shippensburg Fair Queen Melany Ginnick.

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EARLY FEED RESTRICTIONS OF BROILER CHICKS — IS IT ADVANTAGEOUS?

Dr. Magdi M. Mashaly
Associate Professor
Poultry Science

Researchers in the field of poultry management have been investigating the benefits of early feed restrictions of broiler chicks.

These benefits include improved feed efficiency and reduced mortality. Recently, Fontana et al. 1992 (Poultry Sci. 71:1296-1305), studied the effect of early feed restriction of broiler chicks on growth, feed conversion, and mortality. They found that restricting broiler chicks (40 kcal/bird/day) for seven days starting at four days of age reduced body weight when compared to chicks fed free choice. However, total pen weight was similar in the two groups since mortality was reduced in the restricted group. Furthermore, feed-restricted chicks had better feed conversion (2.01) than chicks fed *ad libitum* (2.15).

Studies were conducted in our laboratory to further investigate the effects of early feed restriction, not only on body weight, feed conversion, and mortality, but also on

some immune parameters.

We used one-day-old broiler chicks raised in floor pens given 24 hours of light. At four days of age, one group of chicks was feed-restricted by receiving 40 kcal/bird/day and the other group was fed *ad libitum* (control). Body weight, feed consumption, feed efficiency, and percent mortality were calculated weekly.

Spleen and bursa of Fabricius weights and circulating total white blood cells (WBC) were determined when the birds were 48 days of age. We found that body weights of the restricted group were significantly reduced when compared with the control group. However, there was no significant difference in feed efficiency between the two groups because feed consumption was reduced in the restricted group.

Even though there were no significant differences in spleen weight, bursa weight, or WBC between the two groups, mortality was significantly less in the restricted group (1.9 percent) than in the control group (5.7 percent).

In conclusion, it seems that early feed restriction for broiler chicks is advantageous since it reduces mortality and does not have any adverse effects on broiler performance.

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We are still the place to buy clear liquid fertilizer for starter and foliar.

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However, our people will be around to talk with you about your fall and spring needs.

Thanks for your continued support.

Art Benjamin