

Dauphin Sets Field Day

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) — A Nov. 4 Dauphin County field day is scheduled to emphasize techniques for managing crop residue so that farmers can maintain compliance with conservation plans, according to Paul Craig, Dauphin County extension agent.

Craig said that what farmers do now to their fields, as far as creating and maintaining crop residue levels, sets the base for the amount of residue remaining after spring planting.

Conservation plans, which are required in order to participate in federal programs, can be very specific for the percentage of residue left on a field in spring.

In order to help producers keep from failing to comply with their plans, a multi-agency effort is planned.

The field day, open to farmers in Dauphin and surrounding counties, is to be held Nov. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Milton Hershey School Farm Technology Center, located east of Hershey.

The field day is being coordinated by the agencies located in the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resource Center, in Dauphin.

Specifically, the agencies combining efforts include the Dauphin County Conservation District, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS).

According to an announcement from the county's Conservation District, "using practical demonstrations, the 1993 Dauphin County Field Day will show how to farm for residue management. In addition, the program will focus on the need for conservation plan compliance, manure application, and perennial weed control on reduced tillage practices."

Those who attend the weed control session are eligible to receive a pesticide credit, but need to bring their license along to the event in order to have the credit notated properly.

According to the announcement, "The primary emphasis will be on residue management using tillage equipment that most farmers currently have. However, farmers attending will have the opportunity to see some new tillage equipment demonstrated."

Scheduled speakers include Lynn Hoffman, agronomist from Penn State University, and Joel Myers, state agronomist for SCS.

Both are experienced in working with high residue farming and can be expected to provide those attending with help in best managing their own farm.

There will also be specialists, exhibitors and representatives from all the organizing agencies making presentations, doing demonstrations and answering questions.

According to the news release, to stay eligible for USDA program benefits, "farmers must now protect their land against soil erosion and preserve wetlands, as required by the Food Security Act of 1985. Since 1990, if you farm highly erodible cropland without a conservation plan, you will be ineligible for most USDA program benefits on all you cropland."

The announcement also reminds producers that the conservation plan must be fully implemented by Jan. 1, 1995, allowing one growing season to learn and plan for compliance.

Signs indicating the field day are to be placed along routes 422 and 322.

If farmers in northern Dauphin County call and express enough interest, the Conservation District will sponsor a bus to make stops in Gratz, Berrysburg, Elizabethville, and Halifax. Those interested in riding a free bus to the field day should call the district at (717) 921-8100 before Oct. 25.

Also, a free lunch is to be provided from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

The field day program is set to start at 9:30 a.m. with registration, a welcome and introduction period at 10 a.m., and then right into a session on why farmers should be concerned with implementation of their conservation plan.

Scheduled speakers are Rick Kepner, a district conservationist with the SCS who is to discuss farm plans, spot checking and appeals; Ruth Hagy, executive director of the Dauphin County ASCS who is to discuss the impacts of non-compliance on eligibility for USDA programs; and Mike Hubler, a resource conservationist with the county Conservation District who is to discuss non-compliance and the Clean Streams Law.

At 10:30 a.m., Lynn Hoffman, is to speak, followed by Joel Myers at 11 a.m.

At 11:30 a.m. is to be a demonstration of tillage for residue management.

After lunch, Russel Cassel, associate director of the Conservation District is to discuss the role of manure in residue management.

At 1:30 p.m., Paul Craig is to discuss perennial weed control on reduced tillage acreage.

The last half hour is to be a review and question and answer session.

(Turn to Page A39)



At the Grassland FFA Greenhouse Dedication ceremony on Tuesday afternoon were the following Grassland FFA'ers, from left, Megan Frederick, vice president, operations; Lisa Horning, chapter historian; Linda Huber, correspondence secretary; Shannon Horst, chaplain; Jolene Ringler, treasurer; Darrel Weaver, vice president, member relations; Jason Reifnsyder, state vice president, presenting the plaque honoring the contributors to the construction of the greenhouse; Joel Fox, BOAC co-chair; Jevon Shirk, student adviser; Wade Esbenshade, chapter president; Cheryl Weaver, sentinel; Krista Hoover, records secretary; Andrea Snader, reporter; and Connie Zelset, vice president, operations.



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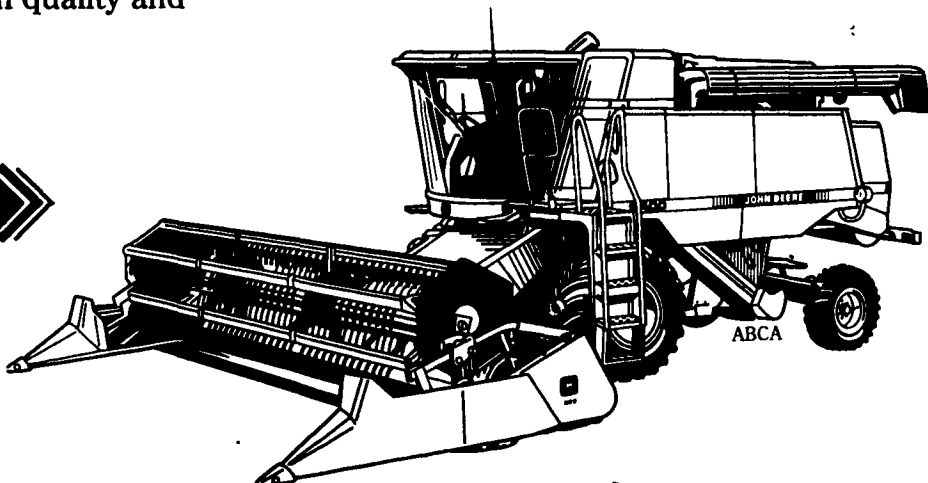
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