

Greenhouse Systems Conference Set

ITHACA, N.Y. — Greenhouse Systems: Automation, Culture, and Environment, a conference to be held in New Brunswick, N.J. on July 20-22, 1994, will provide in-depth information on the engineering principles of greenhouse system design and management. Presentations focusing on current technology and case studies will relate the fundamentals to day-to-day management decisions.

The conference consists of four half-day sessions. The automation session will discuss sensors for monitoring the greenhouse environment, controllers and computers for decision making, and

machines and layouts for efficient operation. The culture session will discuss water and nutrient delivery and other factors that affect plant growth and response. The environment session will discuss systems used to control heat, lighting, and the gaseous environment within the greenhouse. The last session will focus on integrating the systems discussed in the first three sessions to create an efficient and profitable greenhouse that minimizes environmental impact.

Each evening will include opportunities for focused learning. On the first evening, workshops

will be offered; topics will be chosen based on input from conference registrants on their registration forms. During the second evening, teams of participants will each design a greenhouse system. The designs will be reviewed during the last session on the following day.

The intended audience includes greenhouse production systems owners and their advisors and managers, equipment suppliers and manufacturers, cooperative extension educators, designers, writers and publishers within the industry, teachers, government policy makers, and regulators.

The conference planning committee includes Gene Giacomelli, K. C. Ting, and William J. Roberts, professors of bioresource engineering at Rutgers University; Louis D. Albright, professor of agricultural and biological engineering at Cornell University; John W. Bartok, Jr., extension professor of natural resources management and engineering at the University of Connecticut; and Marty Sailus, director of the Northeast Regional Agricultural

Engineering Service.

The conference is being organized by the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service (NRAES) and the Center for Controlled Environment Agriculture at Rutgers University, in conjunction with the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 2 Albany Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Room rates are \$65 for a single or double room, \$90 for a triple room, and \$115 for a

quadruple room if you mention "Greenhouse Systems Conference" when you call the hotel at (908) 873-1234. Rooms have been set aside until June 19, 1994.

For a free brochure containing a complete conference agenda, a map to the conference, registration fee, and a registration form, write to NRAES, Cooperative Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-5701 or call (607) 255-7654. Brochures will be available in January 1994.

Disaster Payments Issued

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Federal crop disaster payments totaling \$12,086 have been issued to several Berks County farmers so far this year whose crops were adversely affected by flooding and other severe weather conditions.

Richard Troutman, an official of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), said the payments will help those producers who were prevented from planting or who

lost some or all of their crops because of damaging weather factors. He also mentioned Berks County farmers fortunate in having more favorable growing conditions as compared to others across the state.

In addition to issuing crop payments, ASCS opened the 1993 tree assistance program (TAP) for commercial tree growers who experienced significant tree losses.



FINDING A CONSULTING FORESTER

Robert S. Hansen, Bradford County Forester

Utilizing a professional consulting forester will be of great help to a landowner in the management of his or her forest land. A forester can be especially valuable when the landowner wants to sell some timber. A good forester can more than make up his or her fee through the increased profits from a forester-assisted timber sale.

How does one find a good, reliable forester? The first thing to remember is that in Pennsylvania there is no registration law that prevents an unqualified individual from presenting himself or herself as a forester. There are many individuals in Pennsylvania that currently call themselves foresters that do not have the requisite training or experience to be professional foresters. A landowner needs to check the credentials of any individual who he or she might consider hiring as a consulting forester.

A professional forester has a minimum of a four year degree in forestry from an accredited university. Penn State University has the four-year forestry degree program in Pennsylvania and there are others throughout the country as well. A forest technician has a two-year degree in forestry from a recognized college or university. Penn State at Mount Alto and Pennsylvania College of Technology have two-year programs in Pennsylvania. A forest technician can offer similar help to a landowner, especially if the technician has had adequate field experience.

The first step in finding a professional forester to help you is to contact your local Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry service or your county extension office. They can supply you with a list of professional foresters that work in your county. The list contains consulting foresters and industrial foresters. An industrial forester is employed by a timber company or sawmill. A consulting forester is self-employed and you hire the forester to work for you. You also pay the consultant for his time and expertise.

The next step is deciding on two or three foresters on the list who you might want to have work with you. You should contact these foresters and discuss your needs with them. You should also check on their fee schedule.

Of utmost importance is the checking of references of these foresters. Not all foresters, even though they have the same educational training, have the same abilities. Checking references cannot be overemphasized. After checking the foresters' references and discussing your needs with them, you should then make your decision.

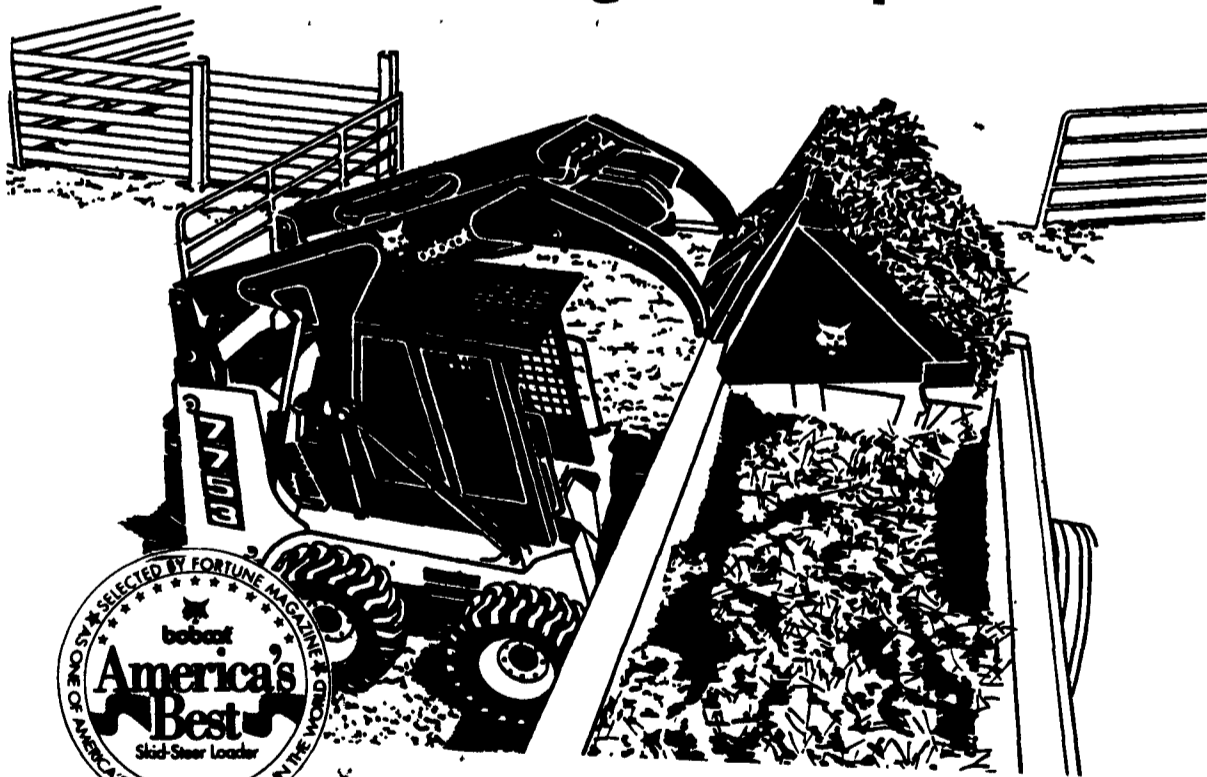
Meet often with your forester during the life of the project. Make sure that he or she understands your objectives and your concerns. Remember it is your property and you ultimately have the responsibility for the decisions being made. A forester steward will obtain the services of a qualified, professional forester and take an active role in the management of his or her own property.

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