

# Agronomy Day Set

TOWANDA (Bradford Co.) — The 1994 Agronomy Day Sponsored by Penn State/Bradford County Cooperative Extension and agribusiness exhibitors will be held on Tuesday, March 15, at the Wysox firehall.

The doors will open at 9 a.m. for registration, coffee, and donuts for visiting exhibitors.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by 3 p.m. Lunch reservations at \$3 per person are due at the Bradford County Cooperative Extension office by Friday, March 4.

Interested agribusinesses that may wish to display their offerings are also encouraged to contact the Bradford County Cooperative Extension office as soon as possible.

The meeting will provide the opportunity to gain update pesticide credits for pesticide license renewal for private and commercial applicators.

The meeting will feature Dr. Doug Beegle, extension agronomist, and Dr. Dennis Calvin, extension entomologist at the Pennsylvania State University.

Beegle's first topic, beginning at 10:45 a.m., will be the use of soil testing reports and records to monitor and ultimately manage soil fertility. In the afternoon, Beegle will discuss management

techniques to maximize the agronomic and economic benefits of manure applications to crop fields while minimizing environmental impacts.

At 11:20 a.m., Calvin will discuss plant development and insect injury. Information will focus on corn for grain and silage as well as the forage crops common to this area. His afternoon presentation will involve a more detailed discussion about controlling early season corn pests.

Also on the Agronomy Day agenda is Mark Madden and Tom Maloney, Bradford County agricultural extension agents. They will make presentations during the day regarding pesticide safety, the Chemsweep program, and the Worker Protection Standard, and the worker protection training that some employer producers may need to provide to their employers.

The afternoon session will begin with the five-acre corn crib awards from the 1993 growing season.

Door prizes provided to participating Agronomy Day sponsors will be awarded during the day.

Any questions regarding Agronomy Day can be directed to Mark Madden at the Bradford County Cooperative Extension office, (717) 265-2896.

# Atlantic Breeders Co-operative

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by James Kreider, president of the ABC Board of Directors, published in the cooperative's annual report to stockholder members, "We see four reasons for a need to restructure: maintain size of the business; need for greater efficiency; importance of nonmember business to help finance the cooperative; position ourself to meet the future changes that we see in the dairy industry."

The increased size of a new cooperative membership would ostensibly mean reducing overhead costs by eliminating redundant services provided now by the three different cooperative administrations. In other words, the overall cost of running the new cooperative would be less than currently running all three separately.

As a combined cooperative, the strength of a larger stable of sires to offer nonmembers could possibly compete better on the open market with commercial operations.

Bair said that a merger scenario would probably mean having new cooperative headquarters in Ithaca, N.Y., where Eastern has a more modern building than ABC.

But the Lancaster County stud facilities for 200 bulls would continue to be used, as would the

30-animal facility in Louisiana, and Eastern's more than 650 animal facility.

Under the vision of a merger, as it is forming, Bair said there appears to be no reason to change the efficiency of sire sampling; semen collecting would be done at Ithaca; and there would be no interruption in service to members.

Along with the expected elimination of some administrative jobs, a new position would be created. Bair said a person who would work on research and development would be added to the administrative staff.

Among other questions posed by a merger would be determining the size of a board of directors. Currently there are 16 members on ABC's board, 14 sit on Eastern's board, and Louisiana has a 25-member board of directors.

During Tuesday's meeting several people said that a smaller board of directors would probably be better for a merged operation, because of speed with which decisions could be made.

Also up in the air is what the name of a merged cooperative would be. Bair said all suggestions are welcome.

"In reality, at this time, there are more questions than answers," Bair said. "We're talking about ideas, not decisions. We need input and we need more details."

He said leadership is looking to members to help provide this, so that the organization continues to be one that members want and

control.

Bair said that members should talk about this among each other and with their elected representatives, directors and resource people. "Don't be afraid to contact these people," he said.

Also Bair said that members should stay in contact with cooperative field staff.

"As information becomes available, we will inform employees," he said. "Please get your information from within the organization."

Bair and other leaders of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative have spent the past two weeks traveling throughout its membership region to hold 42 annual district meetings for stockholder-members. The agenda for each meeting included presenting the possible merge.

In other business, Bair also talked about members choice of semen. He said that they shouldn't fall into the trap of using sires merely because they top the most recent list for predicted transmitting abilities.

Rather, he said that breeders should select sires for what they can do for the member's herd.

Also during the meeting, five area dairymen were honored for having high producing herds this past year. Receiving certificates of merit were J. Ray Ranck, Melody Lawn Farm, Parke Ranck Jr., Clair Landis, Ed Landis.

Awards were presented by local technicians Naaman Stoltzfus, Glen Geib, and George Shoe.

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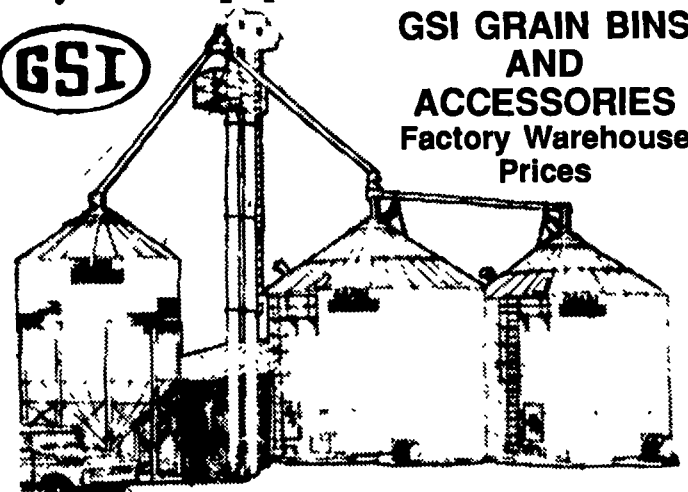
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