

## Farm Programs Offer Advance Payments

**NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.)** — Producers may request an advance portion of the projected deficiency payment for wheat and feed grains when they enroll in the 1994 programs for these crops, according to Jenifer Minnich, county executive director of the Lebanon County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

"The programs offer 50 percent of the estimated total deficiency payment rates for these crops in cash," Minnich said.

Estimated deficiency payment rates for the 1994 crops are 85

cents per bushel for wheat, 40 cents for corn, 46 cents for sorghum and 52 cents for barley.

Minnich said acreage devoted to conserving uses for deficiency payments under the optional 0-85/92 provisions of the wheat and feed grains programs will not be less than these rates.

The advance payment rates are 42.5 cents per bushel for wheat, 20 cents for corn, 23 cents for grain sorghum, and 26 cents for barley.

There is no set-aside (ACR) requirement for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, oats, and barley. Program applications may be filed through April 29.

## Pa. Scrapie Board Conducts Survey

**COOPERSBURG (Lehigh Co.)** — The Pennsylvania Voluntary Scrapie Certification Board has issued a survey polling the concerns of 1,340 Pennsylvania sheep producers.

The survey, the first of its kind in the country, seeks to establish how sheep producers view the current program and how they feel the program could be improved to better serve their needs.

The results of the survey will be very important to policy formation. The survey is an opportunity for producers to voice their concerns to their state board with proposed suggestions for improvements.

The survey results will be invaluable as a way of determining grass-roots feedback and should benefit not only producers in this state but other states as well because the results will be shared with the Voluntary Scrapie Boards across the country.

For more information, contact June M. Reed (610) 346-8219.

## Market Holds Annual Meeting

**CHELTENHAM, Md.** — The Southern Maryland Regional Farmers Market (SMRFM) held its annual meeting on March 16.

Five board of director members were elected. They are John Denison, Rod Parker, Patty Ptucha, Steve Walter, and Fred Walzel.

Chairman Russell Schlager presented an overview of the performance of the 1993 market season. During the 1993 season, the wholesale auction market sold more than \$391,000 worth of produce, bringing the five-year sales total to \$1.6 million.

According to Schlager, the market has seen substantial growth since its beginning and will continue to grow as more farmers diversify into alternative agriculture.

The 1994 season will open with a Wholesale Bedding Plant Auction on Friday, April 22 at 11 a.m. with additional auctions on May 6 and May 20. The regular produce auctions will begin in June. Once the supply of produce permits, auctions will be held on the following schedule: Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m. and Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m.

According to Schlager, the SMRFM will work to encourage further alternative crop production by growers. He announced a special pumpkin auction featuring pumpkins and Halloween decorations to be held on a Tuesday in early October. For this auction only, sales commissions will not be charged and "no sales" will not be allowed.

To further encourage grower participation and alternative crop production, the SMRFM is offering a bell pepper bonus program for Maryland growers. A bonus of \$500 per acre is being offered to growers producing a minimum of two acres and a maximum of four acres of bell peppers.

The SMRFM will use its packing line for grading and packing the peppers. Growers have to follow program guidelines, such as irrigating the peppers, growing a 3-4 lobed, blocky pepper and following best management practices. Growers must also meet a yield quota of 600 bushels per acre.

For more information, call (800) 533-3276.

## Sheep And Wool Day

**WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.)** — It's time for the sheep at Springton Manor Farm to lose their winter wool, and you are invited to the shearing.

Springton's annual *Sheep and Wool Day* is Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The free educational event will feature demonstrations of sheep shearing and animal care as well as sheep herding by trained border collies.

Spinning and weaving demonstrations by local craftspersons will be included as well as a special children's corner with farm related activities.

Educational videos provided by the Chester County Sheep & Wool Growers Association, the American Sheep Industry, and the American Lamb Council will be shown. Free educational materials from these organizations on backyard sheep management, breeds

and history will be available as well as samples of sheep milk cheese, recipes for mutton and lamb and wool products.

During your visit, you can explore Springton's interpretive nature trail, antique farm museum, and historic Manor House. You can also stroll through the entire farm complex which houses pigs, cows, chickens, turkeys, horses and more. Exhibits of farming and agriculture are throughout the demonstration farm.

Since *Sheep and Wool Day* is a spring event, it's also a great opportunity to see all the newborn animals including piglets, lambs and chicks.

*Sheep and Wool Day* is a free event. Food will be available for purchase. Springton Manor Farm is five miles west of Downingtown off Route 322 in Guthrieville. For information and directions, call (610) 942-2450.

## Gov. Casey Proclaims Grange Week

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — More than 325,000 Grange members nationwide will celebrate Grange Week April 24 - 30. In recognition of the event, Governor Robert P. Casey has officially proclaimed that week Pennsylvania State Grange Week.

"Since its inception in 1873, the Grange has been dedicated to improving farming and rural life for all Pennsylvanians," Casey said.

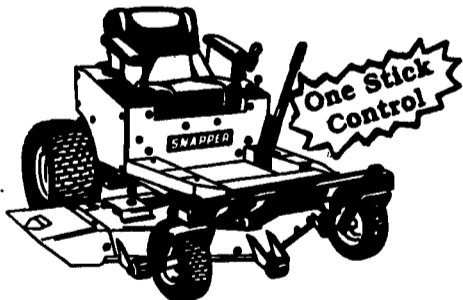
"It has become part of the fabric of our society, keeping our communities together through good times and bad. By focusing on family, service and leadership, the Grange provides a strong foundation for our agricultural community."

The Pennsylvania State Grange will officially celebrate Grange Week on Monday, April 18 with a 90-minute debate with 10 of the

13 gubernatorial candidates, educational workshops on such topics as local tax reform, environmental issues and mental health, and a legislative reception and banquet at the Sheraton Inn-East, Harrisburg. The governor's debate kicks off Grange Week activities beginning at 1 p.m. with nearly 400 Pennsylvania Grangers attending the festivities.

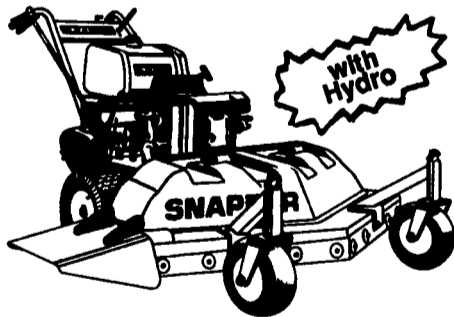
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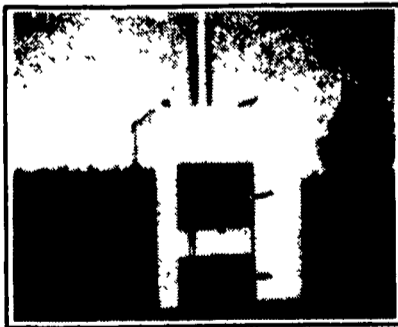
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