

Farm Calendar



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grounds, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
 York Fair Open Dairy Show.
 North East Community Fair, North East, thru Sept. 17.
 Oley Valley Community Fair, Oley, thru Sept. 17.
 "Red Power" Roundup, Hookstown Fairgrounds, Hookstown, thru Sept. 18.
 Pasture Walk, Ardin Landis, Atglen, 10:30 a.m.-noon.
 39th Anniversary Steam Show, Arcadia Exposition Grounds, Keisterstown, Md., thru Sept. 18.
 Fall Field Day, Winsor Acres Farm, Harpursville, N.Y., 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Friday, September 16
 The Big E, West Springfield, Mass., thru Oct. 2.
 Upper Shore Small Grain breakfast, Howard Johnson Restaurant, Rt. 301, Kent County, Md., 8 a.m.
Saturday, September 17
 Organic Country Fair, Pennington, N.J., thru Sept. 18.
 PASA Field Day, Organic Raspberry Culture, Jean Nick, Kintnersville.
 Family Fun Festival, JoBo Hols-

tein Farm, John and Bonnie Hess, Gettysburg, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Ninth Annual Dorset Field Day, The Perry Farm, Whitehouse Station, N.J., 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday, September 18
 Honey Harvest Festival, Hashawha Environmental Center, Westminster, noon-5 p.m.
 Over-The-Hill Horse Show, English and Western (adults only), Hunter Hill Stables, Coventryville, 9 a.m.
 Fertilizer Institute's 1994 World Fertilizer Conference, The Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, Calif., thru Sept. 20.
 Gratz Fair, Gratz, thru Sept. 24.
Monday, September 19
 Reading Fair, Reading, thru Sept. 24.
 Beaver Community Fair, Beaver Springs, thru Sept. 24.
Tuesday, September 20
 Ephrata Fair, Ephrata, thru Sept. 24.
 Harmony Grange Fair, Harmony, thru Sept. 24.
 Beef Pasture Walk, William Pearsall and David Hendricks, Macungie, 6:30 p.m.
 N.Y.-Pa. Pasture Tours, Painter Dairy and Beef Farm, Elkland,

10 a.m.-noon.
 PASA Farm Field Day, Abram and Sherry Ziegler Farm, Limestoneville, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Wednesday, September 21
 Delmarva Broiler Housing and Flock Supervisors Conference, Delmarva Convention Center, Delmar, Md.
 Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, thru Oct. 1.
Thursday, September 22
 Workshop Series On Computers and Record Keeping, Lancaster County Farm and Home Center, 1 p.m., also Oct. 20 and 27.
 N.Y.-Pa. Pasture Tour, Antique Valley Farm, Owego, N.Y., 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Rob and Darlene Howland Farm, Candor, N.Y., 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.
 Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference, Eden Resort, Lancaster, thru Sept. 24.
Friday, September 23
 Eastern National Livestock Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md., thru Sept. 26.
Saturday, September 24
 The Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant, Sheraton Inn East, Harrisburg.
 Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival of N.J., Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J., thru Sept. 25.

Potato Blight Meeting

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 She said that she estimates severe losses of Potter County's 1,400 acres of potatoes and large losses to Erie County's estimated 3,300 acres.

"This disease has probably been the most well known disease on potatoes," Christ said, noting that normally producers use fungicides effectively to control the fungus which can easily be transported through infected seed potatoes.

In fact, she said that since the disease had been known to have been a problem in the potato-seed producing areas of the Northeast last year, it is likely that infected seed potatoes could well be one of the reasons for the widespread spread of the fungus.

The weather complicated things also, she said, creating favorable conditions for the fungus to attack the plants as rapidly and thoroughly as happened.

But, Christ said this is apparently also a new, unidentified strain of late blight disease fungus, and the outlook should cause some concern.

According to Christ, the typical

strain of fungus that typically causes late blight disease reproduces asexually and therefore has a stable genetic pool.

This new strain reproduces sexually and has more genetic variety and has a much stronger potential to become resistant to weather conditions and treatments.

She said that DNA testing and further identification procedures need to be performed in order to know for sure that it is a new strain.

Producers are urged to attend the meeting. State Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff, or a high-ranking designee, is to attend, according to state PDA officials. Representatives of lending institutions, federal agricultural agencies and all with an interest in the Pennsylvania potato producer are invited to learn more about the problem and what can be done.

"For Pennsylvania, it's been over 15 years since any significant epidemic (of late blight)," Christ said. "This is the first year in many years when it is a problem."

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