

RISA Seeks Proposals For On-Farm Projects

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — The Regional Infrastructure for Sustaining Agriculture (RISA), a three and one half year program focused on long-term farm issues in southeastern Pennsylvania, is seeking proposals from southeast Pennsylvania dairy and vegetable farmers for on-farm research or demonstrations that address an aspect of sustainable agriculture.

Specifically, RISA is interested in proposals for sustainable technologies or practices farmers want to evaluate on their farm, as well as innovative strategies for sustaining the long-term viability of farming operations. In southeastern Pennsylvania, RISA will provide some technical and financial support to the project.

Priority will be given to proposals that address the following issues: nutrient management, marketing, intensive grazing, water quality, soil health, integrated pest control, total farm management and alternative crops. Other ideas that contribute to the long-term sustainability of farming will also be considered.

RISA is a cooperative project being conducted by Penn State

University, Rodale Institute Research Center, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, Reading Terminal Farmers Market Trust, and the League of Women Voters. The project is based in southeastern Pennsylvania, including Northampton, Lehigh, Bucks, Berks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Delaware, Lebanon, Lancaster, and Chester counties. It seeks to address the food system infrastructure in the rapidly urbanizing counties, and better ways of integrating farmers and consumers, production and markets.

RISA activities are under way to identify and broaden the understanding of barriers to and opportunities for sustaining agriculture in the region. The southeast on-farm demonstrations will provide farmers the opportunity to test and demonstrate innovative agricultural practices which work for them and a way to share the results with others.

Proposals for projects scheduled for 1995 are due by Dec. 15. For more information, contact any member of the RISA On Farm Demonstration Team listed below:



Steve Groff, center, hosted a field day at his vegetable farm last summer in Holtwood.

	AFFILIATION	PHONE
Jim Barnett	Atlantic Dairy Cooperative	215-322 0200
Lee Bentz	PA Dept of Agriculture	717-772-5204
Tim Bowser	PASA	814-349-9856
Jonda Crosby	Penn State University, Berks Cooperative Extension	610-378-1135
Tim Fritz	Penn State University, Montgomery Cooperative Extension	610-489 4315
Cary Oshins	Rodale Institute Research Center	610-683-1415
Leon Weber	Rodale Institute Research Center	610-683 1401

Are N.Y. Farmers At Disadvantage?

ALBANY, N.Y. — At a recent news conference sponsored by the New York State Association of Counties, New York Farm Bureau President Charles Wille said that unbearably high property taxes are squeezing the profitability out of farming and putting New York farmers at a competitive disadvantage with their counterparts in other states.

During the news conference, the Center for Government Research (CGR) unveiled a study on the high cost of state mandates and their impact on county taxpayers. The study focused on a direct county-to-county comparison between Monroe County, in western N.Y., and several similarly-sized municipalities around the country.

At the news conference, from left, Bob King, Monroe County executive; Dr. Kent Gardner, CGR's director of economic analysis and director of the study; Patricia Malgieri, president of CGR; Joseph Eade, president of NYSAC and chairman of the Cattaraugus County Legislature; Charles Wille, president of New York Farm Bureau; and Mary Hanak, executive director, Supervisors and County Legislator's Association of NYS.

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ON-FARM RESEARCH/DEMONSTRATION PROJECT APPLICATION

The RISA project is soliciting proposals from farmers for on-farm research or demonstrations that address an aspect of sustaining agriculture in southeastern Pennsylvania. We are looking for proposals about technologies or practices you want to evaluate on your farm, and innovative strategies for sustaining the long-term viability of your farm. RISA will provide technical support to the project.

Priority will be given to projects that address the following issues: nutrient management, marketing, intensive grazing, water quality, soil improvement, pest control, farm management, and alternative crops. Other ideas that contribute to the long-term sustainability of your farm will also be considered. Please call if you have questions about whether your idea for a project is appropriate.

Project Title: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____ Telephone #: _____
 _____ Best time to call: _____
 _____ County: _____
 Funding request: _____ {up to \$500}

1. Objective (What research question or problem do you want to answer, or what innovation do you want to demonstrate?)

2. Why is this an important issue to address?

3. Project description (Describe what you intend to do and how you will do it).

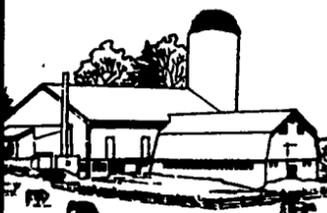
4. If applicable, draw a diagram of your proposed project and attach it to this form.
 5. What results do you hope to achieve? How might those results be measured?

6. Additional information about the project (optional).

For further information feel free to contact any of the following On-Farm Team members:
 Jim Barnett, Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, 215-322-0200
 Jonda Crosby, Berks Cooperative Extension, 610-378-1135
 Tim Fritz, Montgomery Cooperative Extension, 610-489-4315
 Leon Weber, Rodale Institute Research Center, 610-683-1401

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