

Experts Call For Fruit Growers Meeting To Review 1994 Disaster, Crop Insurance Bill

YORK (York Co.) — There's not much time for fruit growers who need to learn more about recently enacted changes to federal crop insurance — the application deadlines are very soon.

Further, those who suffered large losses from an almost non-existent 1994 peach crop can find out what they may be eligible to receive to help during a producer's meeting on both recently approved disaster relief and a crop insurance reform bill.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Penn State University fruit research laboratory in Biglerville.

According to information coming from the PSU Extension offices in York and Lancaster counties, fruit growers should attend the meeting for an explanation of what was recently passed by Congress.

Details of the disaster bill for 1994 losses are to be provided during the meeting. As well, John Gartside, an account executive with Agri-Business Insurance Agency Inc., and a former director of the federal crop insurance division, out of Harrisburg, is to provide insight into aspects of the reforms of federal crop insurance and what it may mean to the producer.

Some highlights of the insurance reform bill were included in a news release from the Lancaster County extension office.

According to that, while disaster payments apparently will be avail-

able to help cover 1994 production losses, it may be necessary to purchase crop insurance for next year's crop in order to be considered for future disaster aid.

Also, the crop insurance application deadline to cover the 1995 crop of apples is Nov. 20.

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Volunteers supporting the Lebanon Farm-City program have put together a different banquet this year, one that brings together a wide range of agricultural/non-agricultural family appropriate services and activities.

The plan this year is to use the huge fairgrounds barn-style convention hall for the banquet scheduled for Dec. 6 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The deadline for reservations is Nov. 30. Tickets can be purchased through the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, or the Lebanon Extension office.

In the center of the spacious hall is to be a dining area, with a number of tables for those purchasing the \$10 tickets, or sponsoring a table for \$200. Dinner is to be at 7 p.m.

As guests enter the facility, they can expect to be greeted by Miss Pennsylvania, Kristen Border, and

The deadline for the 1995 peach crop is Nov. 30.

According to the release, some other aspects of the crop insurance program are that a "catastrophic" level of coverage is available, which would guarantee an insurance income comparable to 50 per-

cent of the expected crop at 60 percent of the market price; that the price of insurance is to range from \$50 per crop, up to \$200 per county; higher coverage levels are available with the promise that the federal government would subsidize up to 60 percent of the cost of

additional insurance coverage; the yield guarantees are to be based on the grower's actual farm yields, with provisions to drop low-production years.

For more information on the meeting, call Gartside at (800) 233-1957.

Lebanon Farm-City Banquet Showcases Area Agriculture

a landscaping display, hor d'oeuvres, a CHEERS non-alcoholic dairy beverages bar, and samples of agricultural commodities, in addition to numerous displays and entertainment.

Four stages are to be set up along each of the inside walls, with each stage to feature a different musical act during the hour prior to the meal.

At one stage, the Lebanon Bologna Band is to perform; at another a band from Eastern Lebanon County, the Elco Odd Eighteen; the Salem Lutheran Youth and Adult Bell Choirs; and a three-piece blues-jazz band, Gadzooks, round out the musical pre-meal offering.

During the dinner, Lee Moyer, of Marty's Music Store, Lebanon, is to play piano selections.

Also set to be displayed around the interior of the banquet hall for participants to visit are to be a number of exhibits. In one corner, commodity representatives, such

as dairy princesses, and apple and honey queens are to be available to discuss their products.

A storage shed manufacturer, a live-animal display from the Lebanon County/Cedar Crest FFA, a meat-cut identification display by Laudermilch Meats, Christmas trees, greens, a display of apple varieties, a live shawl-making demonstration, and a quilt making demonstration are also to be surrounding the dining tables and available for visiting.

The dinner is to feature barbecued chicken by Bill Troutman,

and include filling, carrots, cole slaw, a roll, chocolate cake, milk and coffee.

The program following the meal is to feature Miss Pennsylvania playing fiddle, followed by presentations by job exchange participants, and auction of a wool shawl that was made during the evening, and distribution of door prizes.

For more information or tickets, call the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce at (717) 273-3727; or the county extension office at (717) 270-4391.

Northeast DHIA: No Fee Increase

ITHACA, N.Y. — Members of the Northeast DHIA Board of Directors met recently to review the audited financial statements for fiscal year 1994 which ended August 31, 1994. It is the third straight year the cooperative has held the line on fees. The fiscal 1994 year exceeded budget expectations of a deficit and ended with a modest positive margin, allowing the cooperative to begin a new fiscal year without any threat of DHI fee increases to the Cooperative's members. Board members cited the strong financial position of the cooperative and the current milk prices as primary reasons for passing a deficit budget rather than balancing the budget by increasing DHI fees.

Northeast DHIA is able to maintain their current fee structure by relying on sound financial management decisions, and the conservative practices of the cooperative. Financially strong and stable, the organization looks forward to implementing a strategic plan that includes expanding the current service area while continuing to provide dependable service, and high quality dairy herd management information and laboratory services at competitive rates.

Northeast DHIA currently serves members in a nine state area of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine and Vermont.

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