

Lancaster Extension Hires Horticultural Agent

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Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
— There's truly a "doctor" in the house for vegetable and fruit growers in Lancaster County, now that a horticultural agent has been hired. Dr. Timothy Elkner, who holds a doctorate in horticulture from Virginia Tech, has succeeded H. Bruce Hellerick, former agent, as the new Lancaster County horticultural agent, it was announced this week.

Elkner, who begins with the Penn State Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Service on June 5, obtained his degrees in plant science, including a bachelor's from Cook College at Rutgers, a master's from Clemson, and a doctorate from Virginia Tech. Studies include the photosynthesis of peaches while completing the master's degree work and the photosynthesis of apples was the focus of his doctoral dissertation.

For three years, Elkner served as a plant physiologist with Texas Tech University in Lubbock, working on studies of grape cold hardiness for the wine industry in the state.

A native of Mays Landing, New Jersey, Elkner told *Lancaster Farming* that he was looking forward to working with Lancaster County farmers on the emerging fruit industry and to help develop

alternative crops to tobacco. Elkner will help the fruit and vegetable industry to "develop and grow," said John Schwartz, Lancaster County Extension director.

"Elkner will work with the fruit and vegetable producers in various capacities, including direct marketing," said Schwartz.

Elkner said that he will be focus-

ing on alternative methods to "help growers get a similar economic return" to tobacco crops by growing vegetable crops in the county. "I will also try to help growers explore alternative direct marketing approaches for their products."

The county vegetable industry produces about \$8.4 million worth of commodities per year. Products from the fruit industry total \$2.1

million for the county, according to 1993 figures.

Schwartz said that Elkner's experience with plant science has

shown that the doctor is a "strong candidate" to replace Hellerick, who left Extension for a career in the landscape industry.

Pond Management Seminar Set

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.)—There are literally thousands of farm ponds and lakes across Pennsylvania. Their purposes include aesthetics, fishing, boating, human and livestock water supply, wildlife and fishery enhancement, recreation, and fire protection. A two-part workshop has been planned for pond and lake owners to give them ideas on enhancing their enjoyment and appreciation of their unique resource.

The program will begin on Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center, Route 225, Dauphin. Discussion will include pond ecology and management.

On Thursday, May 25, at 6 p.m., a field trip will take participants to a pond to observe management practices and discuss pest control strategies and fish management.

Speakers include Jane Smith-Decker, superintendent and watershed manager for Harrisburg City's Dehart Dam; Joseph Gallagher, pond and lake consultant who is also a fisheries biologist; and Tom McCarty, agricultural engineer in the Cumberland County Extension Office.

Interested individuals can register by calling (717) 921-8803 for information. There is a \$10 registration fee if registered before Friday, May 5. Registration after that is \$15.



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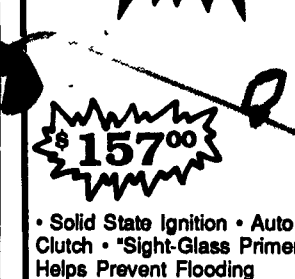
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*"Dry Matter Retention in Silage Storage Units," Marshfield Exp. Station, 1983
** "Keeping Air Out of Bunkers Is The Key," Hoards Dairyman, March 25, 1992

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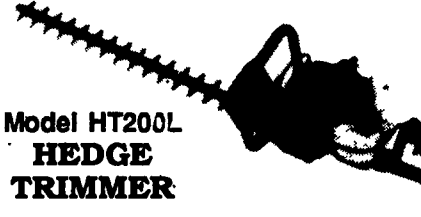
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