

AGRICULTURAL

MEDIA ADVISORY

A Monthly Report of Agricultural News, Events, and Information for the Farming Community

MAY 1995

GENERAL AG NEWS

■ GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING SLATED

The Maryland Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with federal and county agencies, plans to spray for gypsy moths on about 64,500 acres statewide during the spring of 1995. This year's hot spots include the Eastern Shore and Charles County, which contain more than 80 percent of the spray sites. MDA has provided a toll-free information number for landowners to find out about treatment schedules. The number is 1-800-492-2105 for counties east of, and including, Baltimore County. For Anne Arundel County, Southern Maryland and areas west of Baltimore County, the number is 1-800-492-2106.

■ MARYLAND TOBACCO AUCTIONS COMPLETED

The 1995 Maryland tobacco auctions have been completed. The average tobacco price for the season was \$163.46 per hundred pounds. The auctions spanned a four-week period with fifteen sale days. The 1995 price increased from \$151.22 per hundred pounds garnered in 1994. The record average price for Maryland tobacco came at the 1991 auction at \$187.19 per hundred pounds. This year's auction sold 11,751,296 pounds of tobacco produced on some 8,500 acres. In 1994, 11,838,461 pounds of tobacco grown on 9,500 acres were sold. For more information, contact Harold Kanarek at 410-841-5882.

■ PRECISION AGRICULTURE FIELD DAY SET FOR JUNE 19

A Precision Agriculture Field Day is set for June 19 at the USDA-ARS Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), located a short distance north of the Washington Beltway at 100300 Baltimore Ave. (U.S. Highway 1). Field day plans are being coordinated by the Potash and Phosphate Institute (PPI) Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR), the Fertilizer Institute and BARC.

Visitors will see how space-age technology is providing important tools for nutrient management and other aspects of modern crop production. Exhibits will open at 9 a.m. in tents on the BARC grounds. They will show computer hardware and software, as well as related technology developments. A joint House and Senate agriculture hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Administration Building.

Noon lunch will be provided by the Maryland Grain Producers Association and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board. The afternoon program includes bus tours to see live demonstrations of precision farming experiments at BARC. Barley harvesting and alfalfa fertilization will be demonstrated.

Participants should register by May 26 for the lunch and bus tours. Call Dr. William K. Griffith at 703-450-4835 for registration information.

■ CHANGES SLATED FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

The Consolidated Farm Service Agency has announced three major changes for the Conservation Reserve Program. During 1995, producers enrolled in the program will be able to extend the maturity of existing contracts for one year, withdraw certain land from the program, and begin land preparation before July 1 with proper approval (applies to producers whose contracts expire this year). Certain restrictions and requirements apply. Call the Consolidated Farm Services Agency at 410-381-4550 for details.

ALLEGANY COUNTY

■ POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP PLANNED

The Allegany Soil Conservation District is sponsoring an evening pond workshop on Thursday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at Spring Valley Fishing Lake in Oldtown. The meeting will target citizens who own or manage a pond. Various government officials will be available to offer information on permits required for maintenance and repairs, chemical algae control applications and fish species and populations. For more information, contact the Allegany Soil Conservation District at 301-777-1747.

■ ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT WORKS WITH BOY SCOUTS

The Allegany Soil Conservation District is working with the Potomac Council of the Boy Scouts of America to perform water quality monitoring on 6.2 miles of Allegany County streams in the Upper Seven Springs Run Watershed. A major portion of the stream system feeds a recreational pond located on Scout property which suffers from algae blooms. The project gives the scouts an opportunity to meet requirements for the Environmental Science Merit Badge Program, while addressing water quality issues in their own back yard. The results of the monitoring work will be used to develop an action plan for pond management. Funding for the program was made available through the Chesapeake Bay Trust. For more information, contact Ben Cooper at the Allegany County Soil Conservation District, 301-777-1747.

DORCHESTER COUNTY

■ ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COURSE SET FOR JULY 10-14

The Dorchester Soil Conservation District is sponsoring an environmental science course for county high school students entitled, "The Land and Water Connection," July 10-14 at the Horn Point Environmental Laboratory in Cambridge. To register, call Christine Evans at 410-228-3733.

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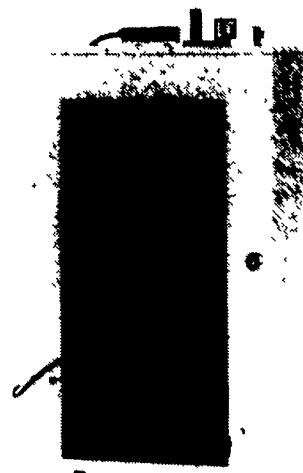
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