

# RISA Announces Field Days

MILLHEIM (Centre Co.) — The Regional Infrastructure for Sustaining Agriculture (RISA) Program, which is addressing long-term farm issues in southeast Pennsylvania, recently announced its 1995 schedule of sustainable farm field days.

RISA is working with dairy operators and vegetable producers in the region who are evaluating sustainable farming technologies and other innovative strategies for sustaining the long-term viability of their farming operations. The purpose of the farm field days is to provide other farmers and interested non-farmers with the opportunity to observe and evaluate these practices being used on working farms.

RISA is a cooperative project being conducted by Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), Penn State University, Rodale Institute, Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, Reading Terminal Farmers Market, and the League of Women Voters. The project is based in 10 southeastern counties and is focused on the viability of the food system infrastructure of these counties. RISA activities seek to identify and broaden the understanding of barriers to and opportunities for sustaining agriculture in the region.

RISA is conducting on-farm demonstrations to test new agricultural practices with innovative farmers and to share the results with the widest possible audience. The farm field days are an excellent opportunity for farmers and the public to see sustainable agricul-

ture in action.

A contact person has been listed with each field day for directions and other information.

## 1995 RISA Field Day Schedule

•July 11, 1-3 p.m. — No-till Tomatoes and Vegetables in Hairy Vetch, Steve and Cheri Groff Farm, Holtwood, Lancaster County. For information: Leon Weber (610) 683-1401.

Sponsored by RISA, Keystone Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society, and Lancaster Conservation District.

Tomatoes and other vegetables which have been no-till transplanted into hairy vetch will be focus of this field trial. A no-till transplanter will be demonstrated. A discussion of the benefits of cover crops in vegetable rotations will be presented by Dr. Abdul-Baki, USDA, Beltsville.

•July 12, 6:30 p.m. — Passively Aerated Windrow Method for Composting, Paul and Carol Hauser, Maplewood Farms, Lincoln University, Chester County. For information: Cary Oshins (610) 683-1415.

The Hausers operate a diversified vegetable, small fruit, tree fruit, and livestock farm near Oxford. The Hausers have been evaluating the passively aerated windrow (PAWS) method of composting for utilization of their

livestock manures in their fertility program. This method will be demonstrated, and results other farmers have had with this method will be discussed by Cary Oshins of the Rodale Institute. Sponsored by RISA.

•July 15 — Lancaster County Conservation Exposition, County Exhibit Farm, Lancaster County Central Park. For information: Lanc. Co. Conservation District (717) 299-5361.

Fun for the whole family! See what innovations are being used by farmers, sporting groups, and city folks to protect the wealth of Lancaster's natural resources. Activities include conservation tillage demos, farm equipment exhibits, Nutrient Management Law presentation, stream protection and enhancement, sportspeople and conservation, natural lawn care, home conservation, and septic system care. Petting zoo and hayrides for the kids. Rain or shine. Food available.

South of city of Lancaster on Route 222/272. Turn east at Media Heights Country Club on to Golf Road. Exhibit Farm is 7/10 miles on right.

Sponsors include Lanc. Co. Conservation Dist., PA Chesapeake Bay Education Office, RISA, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Pequea-Mill Creek Project, and The Stream Team.

•July 19, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. —

Reduced Herbicide Rates With Rotary Hoe Incorporation, Hibshman Homestead Research Farm, Lancaster County. For information: Karen Becker (717) 859-3276.

Field day will demonstrate increase in yields and profits through use of half rates of herbicides by using a single pass rotary hoe to incorporate. Tours of more than 40 research plots. Lunch provided.

Sponsored by RISA and Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service.

•July 22, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. — Farm and Family Independence Day, Rodale Institute, Rodale Institute Research Center, Kutztown, Berks County. For information and registration form: (610) 683-1400.

Featuring sensible, proven, and regenerative farming practices that will help make your farming more profitable and enjoyable. Meet with experts about how to choose and use cover crops, control weeds, market your produce and meat, soil health and much more! Speakers include Joel Salatin, Dick and Sharon Thompson, Mel Gelsing, Abe Ziegler, and Bob Hofstetter. Lunch available. Registration fee is \$55.00.

•August 3, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. — Sustainable Dairy Farm Crop Production System, Don and Linda Weaver, Weaver Homestead Farm, New Holland, Lancaster County. For information: Leon Weber (610) 683-1401.

A crop production system on a sustainable dairy operation will be featured. Focus will be the crop rotation, tillage, fertility management, and non-chemical pest management strategies on this 10th generation farm.

Sponsored by RISA.

•September 6, 6:30 p.m. — New Potato Cultivars for Southeast Pennsylvania, Tim Geiger Farm, Neffs, Lehigh County. For information: Bob Leiby (610) 391-9840.

Meeting will look at a field evaluation of promising new potato cultivars including the effectiveness of a Bt enhanced cultivar for control of the Colorado potato beetle.

Sponsored by RISA and Lehigh Valley Potato Growers Association.

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## Poultry Pointers

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of agricultural inputs, reduction of trade barriers, and uniformity of production regulations.

This total picture of the domestic and international meat consumption markets gives a very promising picture for the production of poultry products for the next decade. The efforts as a poultry industry in Pennsylvania need to focus on capitalizing on those markets that are competitive and profitable and that will remain that way in the future.

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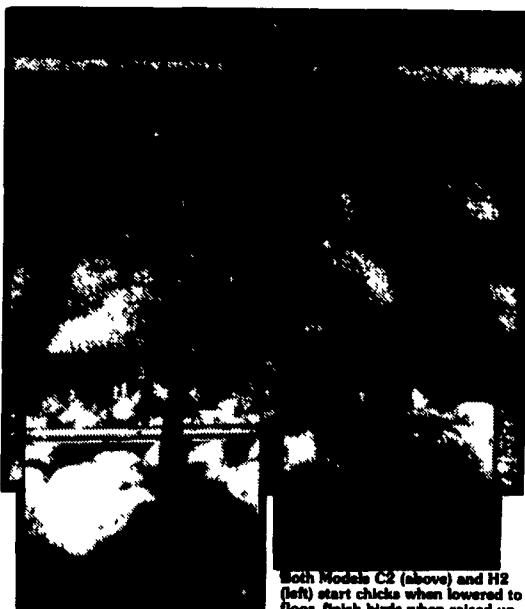
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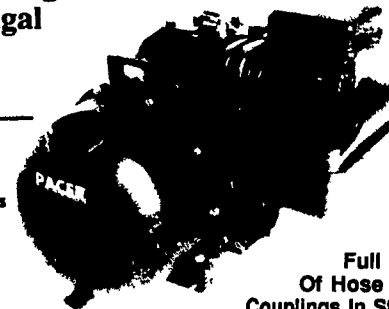
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