

Farm Field Days Set

SHAMOKIN (Northumberland Co.) — George Phillips of the Northumberland County Conservation District announces that nutrient and pesticide management farm field days will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at Meckley's Limestone Products, located approximately 1 1/4 miles southwest of Mandata on Township Route 337, from 9 a.m.-11:50 a.m. and on August 3 at Pine Hurst Acres (Stanley and Richard Crone farm), located approximately 4 1/4 miles southwest of Riverside on State Route 4001, from 9:30 a.m.-11:55 a.m.

The field days are cosponsored by the host farms, Northumberland County Conservation District and Penn State Cooperative Extension, to demonstrate and provide information on the latest equipment and methods for managing manure nutrients and for pesticide handling and sprayer systems.

At the Meckley field day on Aug. 1, Deerfield Ag & Turf Center will be demonstrating a John-Deere Mulchmaster tillage tool that is designed to leave a high percentage of the previous crop residue on the soil surface after tillage operations. This and similar equipment could be used in many situations to incorporate manure after spreading, allowing maximum utilization of the manure plant nutrient for crop production, while still allowing enough crop residue on the surface to be in compliance with the Food Security Act (FSA) conservation plan for the farm and remain eligible for USDA benefits.

Mark Groshek, engineering technician, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will lead a tour of a cropland surface water control system installed on the Meckley farm that includes the use of cropland storage terraces with underground outlets, diversions, and a grassed waterway with a water control structure. Groshek will also explain the installation and use of a agrichemical handling and containment facility installed on the Meckley farm. Fred Meckley, of Meckley's Limestone Products, Inc., will lead a tour and explain the use of sediment traps for runoff control in the limestone quarry operation.

At the Pine Hurst Acres farm on Aug. 3, Snook's Equipment will demonstrate one of the latest methods for incorporating manure into heavy residue cover. Manure is incorporated for maximum utilization of manure plant nutrients, and this method is especially beneficial for manure applied in the fall. The system leaves a rough surface with a lot of residue that increases water infiltration and reduces water and nutrient runoff as well as soil erosion during the winter. Snook will also cover the use of alternative tire sizes to reduce soil compaction while spreading manure. Mark Groshek will also be on hand at this meeting to explain the use of agrichemical handling and containment facilities. The Cronos of Pine Hurst Acres will have their pesticide sprayer with an in-field sprayer rinsing and cleaning system on display and will explain its operation and benefits. The Cronos will also be at the Meckley field day with a sprayer to show and explain the rinsing and cleaning system.

The following people will be attending both meetings:

- Barry Frantz, NRCS, will have information on a cost-share

program to help farmers install the in-field sprayer rinsing and cleaning system on their pesticide sprayers, and will explain the benefits of this system. With the system, a small tank of clean water is carried on the sprayer to the field and used to rinse the main pesticide tank, allowing the rinse water to be sprayed on the crop where the pesticide was applied and avoiding the need to rinse and hold the rinse water at the farmstead, where there is the possibility of contaminating other water or soil.

- Doug Goodlander, conservation program specialist for the Bureau of Land and Water Conservation (BLWC), will cover the new Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Law and explain who and what situations will be affected.

- Rebecca Takacs, nutrient management specialist, BLWC will explain the DER stream bank fencing program and will have a model of the fencing on display for your inspection. This program provides fencing for streams in pastures at no cost to the landowner,

however, the landowner is responsible for maintaining the fence.

- Dave Bailey, extension agent from cooperative extension, will be presenting a program on integrated pest management, covering biological methods and management, and George Phillips from the Northumberland County Conservation District will explain the sign-up period for farmers who may be interested in participating in the Chesapeake Bay Financial Assistance Funding Program, which cost-shares best manage-

ment practices (BMPs) to correct nutrient management problems.

Farmers and other holders of a private pesticide applicator's license will receive 2 credits (1 core & 1 category) toward certification renewal for attending one of these field days. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has approved this program as an update training session.

For more information on the field days, contact the Northumberland County Conservation District at (717) 988-4224 or Northumberland County Cooperative Extension at (717) 644-4455.

RISA, Weaver Farm To Hold Dairy Field Day

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.)—The Regional Infrastructure for Sustaining Agriculture (RISA) Program, which is addressing long-term farm issues in southeast Pennsylvania, will hold a field day highlighting a sustainable dairy cropping system in cooperation with Don and Nelson Weaver of New Holland.

The field day will be held August 3 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at the

Weaver Homestead Farm.

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. The Weaver Field Day will focus on the whole farm system, especially changes over time that have been made to improve the productivity of the soils and animals on the farm.

The Weaver Brothers are the ninth generation to farm their 106-acre dairy operation, which includes 90 cows and 90 young

stock. In the 1970s, the Weavers expanded their herd and manure storage. By the early 1980s, they were experiencing problems with compacted soils, high levels of cow mortality, and decreasing productivity. Additionally, water nitrate levels of 40-50 ppm were discovered in the Weavers' well.

During the mid-1980s, Don and Nelson began to initiate changes toward a more biological method of farming, one which stressed the economic sense of good stewardship. This year they have begun the transition of certified organic production to take advantage of value-added markets for organic milk.

Changes in the Weavers' production system were developed by taking farm soils, records, resources, and family goals into account. A new emphasis on soil quality was begun with the establishment of a more diverse crop rotation. The new rotation of alfalfa and small grain followed by two years of haylage, corn silage, rye into soybeans, and high moisture shell corn, along with more strategic use of manures has allowed the Weavers to eliminate use of all synthetic fertilizers. Don feels that the rotation along with pest scouting helped reduce herbicide and insecticide use to spot spraying only for the past several years.

"We hate weeds," said Don. "Our system of tillage does a good job of eliminating weed populations over time. And of course, now that we aren't using any herbicides we've learned to live with a few more weeds, but our yields are comparable to others in this area. That is the important thing, not completely clean fields." Their system of shallow tillage, combined with fall incorporation of manures contributes to the goal of increasing biological activity in the soil, while reducing pests.

Over the past 10 years, Don and Nelson believe they have seen dramatic and positive changes in their soils, their crops, their animals, and their profitability. "Our soils are looser, spongy and we no longer need lime. We even sold some manure in 1994," Don said. "We've raised the organic matter content of our soils from 1.9 to over 3.1, which I believe has increased our drought tolerance. And very importantly, our nitrate levels in the water have dropped to 5-6 ppm."

The Weavers will discuss all aspects of their operation during the field day. Anyone interested in learning more about how improved stewardship can translate into higher profitability is encouraged to attend.

To get to the Weaver farm: from the intersection of Route 322 and Route 23 in Blue Ball take 322 west to second road right (White Oak Road). Bear left at "Y" to the first farm on right.

Morrow Is National Outstanding Youth

REYNOLDSBURG, Oh.— Their reactions to the physical and mental labor and challenges of the dairy industry today are what brought these two outstanding individuals to the top of the National Outstanding Youth Contest.

Kenlee Calvin of Mt. Vernon, Missouri, was named the 1995 National Outstanding Guernsey Youth Winner at the National Guernsey Youth Banquet in Hillsboro, Oregon.

This 20-year-old is the son of Kenneth and Marilyn Calvin. Calvin has been very involved with Guernsey associations on state and national levels for the past 13 years. He has served as a field representative, president, vice president and reporter for the Missouri Junior Guernsey Breeders' Association.

Calvin credits the Guernsey Genetic Recovery Program for allowing him to begin to register his herd, which consists of 41 registered Guernseys. Starting a rotational grazing system for his herd is one of his primary goals for the future.

Calvin attends Crowder College where he is majoring in farm business management. For his outstanding accomplishments, Calvin received the \$500 Lawrence A. Colebank award and \$150 for travel expenses.

Emphasizing milk production and genetic progress is the breeding program Melissa Morrow of Tyrone, Pennsylvania, employs on her 17 registered Guernseys. Morrow is the first runner-up in the 1995 National Outstanding Guernsey Youth Contest. This 20-year-old is the daughter of

John and Karen Morrow.

Morrow attends Pennsylvania State University, majoring in agriculture business management. She is active in University Scholars, Sigma Alpha, Ag Advocates, National Agri-Marketing Association, Coaly Society, and the Dairy Science Club. Aside from college, Morrow is extremely active within the Pennsylvania Junior Guernsey Breeders' Association, where she has served as president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer.

A goal of Morrow's is to improve the recordkeeping system on her farm. "I would like more of the management and herd health information to be on the computer where anyone could access the information as they needed it," she explained. Morrow received \$75 to assist with her travel expenses to the national convention.

Franklin County Holstein To Hold Field Day

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — The Franklin County Holstein Club has scheduled its annual field day to be held August 1 at Ricecrest Farms, in Chambersburg.

The deadline for meal reservations is Monday, July 24. The cost per dinner is \$4 with an option of a barbequed half chicken platter, or a barbequed 3/4 rib platter. Contact Kevin Horst, at 8417 Edenville-Cheestown Road, Chambersburg Pa. 17201.

Ricecrest Farms is owned and operation by the Fred and Dale

Berks Holstein Picnic July 28

MOHRSVILLE (Berks Co.) — The Berks County Holstein Club has scheduled its summer picnic and field day to be held at the Reu-Hel Farms, in Mohrsville, 7 p.m. July 28.

There is no charge for the picnic, but reservations must be made in order to get an accurate head count. Those who intend to attend should call Connie Troutman at (610) 926-3075 by July 18.

Rice families. They have 230 cows with a rolling herd average of about 20,500 pounds of milk, including an outstanding sister to RC Matt, and a cow in the Noreen family, which has several sons in artificial insemination use.

The field day event is to include registration from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; cattle judging from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; lunch from noon to 1 p.m.; and a speaker from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., followed by door prizes and judging results.

The speaker is to be Albert Cormier, from Ontario, Canada. Cormier is a Holstein breeder and owner of Comdale Genetics Inc., a worldwide dairy export business.

There is also to be a chug-a-lug contest sponsored by the county

junior Holstein club.

Each team is to consist of four members and all the team members must belong to a specific age group entered: Level A, ages 8-15; Level B, ages 16-21; and Level C, ages 22 and older.

Of the four members on each team, each is to have a different milk consumption task: one is to spoon a cup of milk from a bowl; another is to suck a cup of milk from a baby bottle; another is to drink a cup of milk poured into the mouth via a funnel; and another is to chug a quart of milk.

Each team may participate only once and time is to be monitored by a judge with a stopwatch. A participant may only be on one team. To get to Ricecrest Farm, from Exit 5 of I81, turn left and go south on Rt. 316 (Wayne Ave.) for four miles. Turn left onto Church Road and travel two miles to the farm lane marked by a sign.

From Exit 6 of I81, travel east on Rt. 30 for 4.8 miles, turn right onto Mont Alto Road and travel south for 2.3 miles to Duffield village. At Duffield turn right onto New Franklin Road and travel one mile. Turn left onto Church Road and go about one-third mile to the farm lane.

