

# Annual Crops Conference Set For Carlisle

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—Farmers can get information about rotational grazing, grain marketing, growing "designer" crops, managing weeds and more at the 1996 Pennsylvania Crops Conference on Tuesday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Embers Inn and Convention Center in Carlisle.

The conference is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association, the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council, the Pennsylvania Soybean Board, and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Delivering the keynote address will be Keith Heard, vice president of the National Corn Growers Association. From 9-10 a.m., Heard will discuss the next Farm Bill and how it will affect Pennsylvania corn producers.

The following breakout sessions will begin at 11 a.m.:

- Dairy producers Brian Moyer and Jack Fritz will lead the discussion "Is Grazing for You?"

- Rob Ratvasky of Hooper Equipment Co. will discuss "Using Combine Yield Monitors on Pennsylvania Farms." Grain producers Kenneth Martin and Donald Newhard will talk about "Alternative Strategies for Grain Marketing: Options, Contracting and Grain Marketing Clubs."

- John Bechere, CEO of the United Soybean Board, will discuss "Your Soybean Checkoff Dollars at Work." Dwight Lingenfelter, extension assistant in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, will present "New Options for Managing Weeds in Soybeans." A discussion on "Controlling Eastern Black Nightshade in Soybeans" will be led by Edward Werner, research technologist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

At noon, participants may attend one of three luncheons: the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council lunch and awards program, the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association lunch and Five-Acre Corn Club awards program, or the Pennsylvania Soybean Board lunch and soybean yield contest awards program.

At a general session at 2 p.m., Dr. Peter Coaldrake, specialty

corn research coordinator of Pioneer Hi-bred International, will discuss "Designer Crops: The Wave of the Future."

Some breakout sessions will be repeated after 3 p.m., along with

additional sessions on "Forage harvesting: Reducing Labor" and "Small Rectangular Bales," led by hay producer David Fink, and "Large Round Bales," led by Robert Leiby, county extension

director of Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Certified crop adviser credits will be available for some sessions.

The preregistration fee is \$20

which includes lunch. Participants must preregister by Jan. 23. For more information or a preregistration form, contact Penn State's Department of Agronomy at (814) 865-2543.

## Northeast Cooperatives Introduce Dairy Products To Mexico

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives and its member co-ops spearheaded an export initiative to introduce U.S. dairy products to the Mexican marketplace in January. A variety of U.S. products ranging from ice cream to yogurt to specialty cheeses were featured at "Festival de Alimentos y Bebidas," a major trade show held in Mexico City from Jan. 15 to 17.

The Council represents dairy farm families from Michigan to Maine through its member cooperatives — Agri-Mark, Milk Marketing Inc., Upstate Milk and St. Albans. In partnership with departments of agriculture in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont, the Council organized participation in the show, which this year joined forces with Expo of Americas. The show was expected to draw more than 25,000 visitors from the retail and food service industries of Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and El Salvador.

"We see Mexico as an important part of our export strategy," said Robert J. Gray, executive director of the Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives. "Mexico has long been an important market for U.S. commodity products like milk powder and butterfat. We see that market continuing to grow, and including more high-value dairy items like ice cream, yogurt, mozzarella, cheddar and specialty cheeses."

Since joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1986, Mexico has reduced import tariffs from 100 percent on selected items to a maximum of 20 percent across the board. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which Mexico joined in 1994,

promised to open the markets even further.

"The devaluation of the peso in 1995 shook the country to its roots," according to Steven F. Justis, a marketing specialist with the

Vermont Department of Agriculture. "But the economy is beginning to turn around, and it's important that our region be in position for the rebound. Even now, exports from the U.S. to Mexico surpass major markets in Europe

and Asia."

In addition to dairy co-ops, several private dairy processors also provided products for the show, including Lucille Farm Products, Rhino Foods, and Vermont Butter & Cheese.

## Hatfield Named Honorary County Agent

HATFIELD (Montgomery Co.)—January 4, 1996—Hatfield Quality Meats was presented with the Honorary County Agent Award by the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents (P.A.C.A.A.) at their annual meeting in State College. It is the highest award given by the association to non-members.

The statewide award was presented to Hatfield President and CEO Phil Clemens by Tim Fritz, an agricultural extension agent with the Montgomery County branch of the Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Joe Way, a retired Montgomery County extension agent. P.A.C.A.A. gives the award annually to recognize an individual or group for their support of the agricultural industry, specifically agricultural extension and extension agents. Past award recipients have included legislators, top industry leaders and university presidents.

"This is the first time P.A.C.A.A. has given the award to an entire company," says Fritz, who co-nominated Hatfield. "It was too tough to choose one specific person." Fritz says Hatfield was nominated for its strong support of agriculture and agricultural extension in Pennsylvania. He noted the company's hog farming and water recycling with Penn State University and the time and money it contributes to support 4-H projects and the Montgomery County Extension.

"Over the last 10 years," says Fritz, "Hatfield has donated \$300,000 for a 4-H/agricultural center, which houses several organizations including Cooperative Extension, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Montgomery County Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Society and Farm Service Agency."

Nancy Kadwill, Montgomery County 4-H coordinator and Hat-

field's co-nominator for the award, says "Hatfield is a strong supporter of 4-H's educational programs as well as its youth hog marketing programs. Statewide, the company buys a lot of its hogs through 4-H youth livestock clubs and farm shows. Hatfield has been absolutely wonderful in Montgomery County. Their contributions not only benefit 4-H, but the community as well."

Hatfield was chosen to receive the award after nominations were submitted from every region in Pennsylvania, reviewed by a P.A.C.A.A. committee and approved by the association's board of directors.

"Hatfield is dedicated to promoting agriculture in Pennsylvania," says Rusty Ryan, marketing manager at Hatfield. "We feel it is our responsibility to do as much as we can to keep it strong and thriving. As a result, many people benefit, including Hatfield."

Hatfield Quality Meats, Inc., in business for 100 years, is a family owned and operated supplier of fresh pork products, hams, luncheon meats, sausage, bacon, hot dogs, scrapple, pork roll and other quality products to the retail and food service industries. The company's products are distributed from Maine to Florida.

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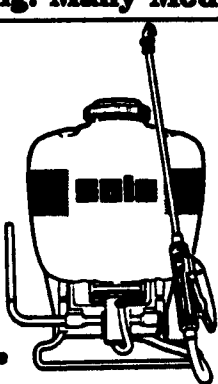
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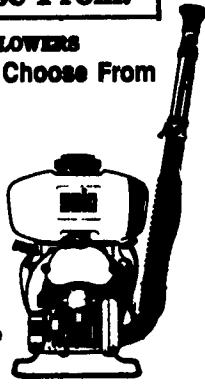
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