

# Kimberton

(Continued from Page A21)

tute, with Jonda Crosby, Penn State RISA project and Sally Pick, Montgomery County extension. Rodale, like Penn State, is a member of the Regional Infrastructure for Sustaining Agriculture (RISA) project. The RISA-sponsored field day, scheduled for early June, is supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The field day will also highlight the technical aspects of the farm and how CSAs differ from traditional vegetable farms.

The field day is scheduled on Saturday, June 8, from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at the farm (for more information, see the accompanying article in this issue of *Lancaster Farming*). Refreshments will be served.

The CSA makes use of no "synthetic" pesticides or fertilizer, according to Barbara. According to Kerry, to control insects, Bt or Rotenone can be used as a last resort.

Barbara indicated that the realities of raising the crop often dictate what will be necessary to use "to adapt to the world that we live in."

Nutrients for the vegetables are obtained through various composting methods — one involving dairy manure, another household food scraps, and another, green manures.

There are many benefits, in addition to the environment, that make CSAs viable. They often serve as educational centers for children about where and how food is grown. Even children who normally have a hard time eating vegetables "pull them out of the ground themselves and take them home and have a relationship with them, and they start to eat them more," said Barbara.

"Our intention here is to have the healthiest ecosystem and to grow food that is healthy and gives as much vitality to the people that are eating it as possible," she said.

According to Jonda Crosby, RISA project associate, consumers in urban and suburban areas are always asking where to get produce fresh from the farm. The Kimberton CSA provides "a way for the project to reconnect consumers with their food," said Crosby. "And this is a living, breathing example of a successful farm."

Crosby indicated that in the region, more and more acreage is lost to houses and industrial development. But some acreage remains — viable plots of 10 or more acres that can be converted to a CSA.

"Even in a really developed area, there are still chunks of land that are left," said Crosby. She mentioned that parts of Montgomery County, a large suburban growth area, can be managed by CSAs. "There's a lot of land in these urbanized areas. If we could think a little bit differently about what farming is and look at different models of how food can get to consumers, rather than our traditional thinking that we have to have crates and crates and crates of apples or potatoes and hundreds of acres to be a viable farm, it would work."

"There are alternatives and people can make a living from them," said Crosby.

According to Oshins, newer communities are forming and "want to maintain a connection with farmland," he said. A CSA can provide that kind of "bridge" to consumers.

"The Garden of Eden is our model," said Kerry Sullivan. "Members can simply wander in their garden — as much as they want to take it as their garden."

# USB Requests Proposals For Projects

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — As a first step toward selecting national soybean checkoff projects for the 1997 Fiscal Year (Oct. 1, 1996-Sept. 31, 1997), the United Soybean Board (USB) is asking all interested organizations, institutions, and individuals to submit preproposals for FY97 projects dealing with issues in USB's international marketing, domestic marketing, new uses, and production program areas.

"This process helps us look

through a large variety of ideas and expert suggestions in a fairly short amount of time so our directors can choose projects that most wisely invest checkoff dollars to benefit producers," said Jerry Slocum, USB chairman. "We're searching for entities to develop and implement quantifiable programs and activities that increase the end use and consumption of U.S. soybeans, thereby, enhancing the profitability of U.S. soybean

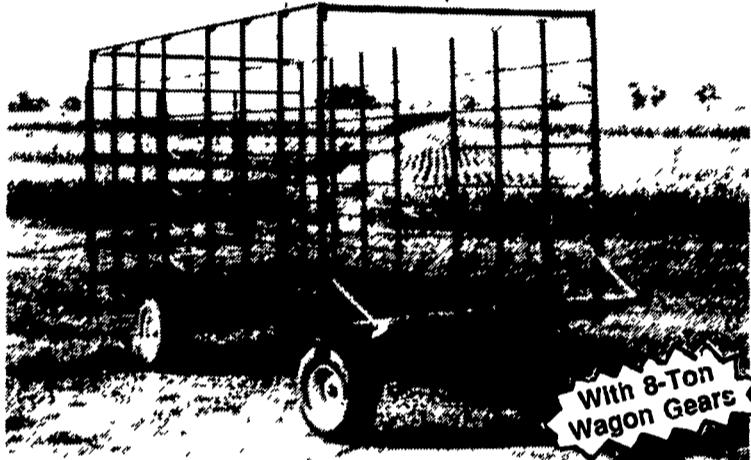
farmers."

Potential contractors must submit the preproposal form based on selected issues for each of USB's four program areas by April 29. To receive the appropriate forms and additional information regarding the program areas' issues, interested individuals/groups should fax Don Gutgsell, USB, at (314) 576-2786. Include name, address, phone number, and fax number for immediate response.

"Producers and consumers are working so closely together to set up a system that's really sustainable economically," said Barbara Sullivan. "So we'll be here 20 years down the road, hopefully."

The season for the Sullivans opens on May 21 and lasts until Christmas.

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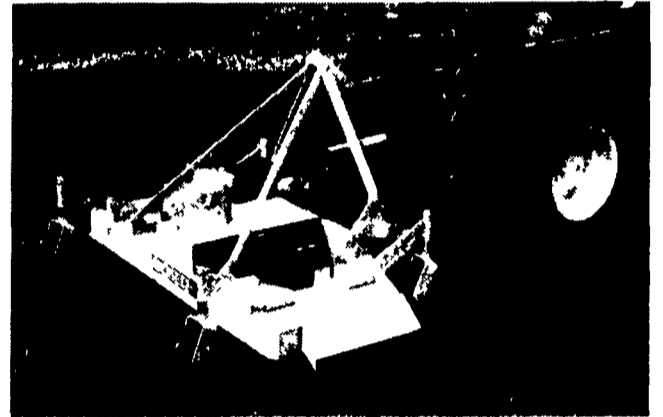
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