

# Sweet Corn, Tomato IPM Info Available

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — Sweet corn and tomato integrated pest management (IPM) information will be available to commercial vegetable growers in several forms this year.

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association have funded IPM research projects at Penn State for tomato disease control and sweet corn insect control for many years.

Growers can obtain the information from these projects to help them time their fungicide and insecticide sprays from a toll-free recorded telephone message, from a "fax-on-demand" service, from a weekly postcard mailing, from their county extension office, and from postings at certain produce auctions.

The toll-free recorded telephone message is available 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-PENN-IPM. While the call

can be dialed from either a rotary or touch-tone phone line, to access the specific information about tomatoes or sweet corn from a rotary phone line, the telephone set itself must be able to be switched to a touch-tone phone after the initial call is placed. The sweet corn information is updated weekly while the tomato information is updated twice a week usually.

This toll-free service has been expanded this year to provide the information via fax as well. The procedure will be explained on the

phone line.

The Vegetable Marketing and Research Board believes it is important to provide this IPM information to growers during the season when they can use it to time fungicide and insecticide applications. Last year the program worked with extension offices across the state to provide this information on postcards sent to most growers in the state on a weekly basis for a six-week period at the height of the season. Growers overwhelmingly indicated in the Program's grower survey last fall they wanted this service again in 1996.

This series will be offered again this year, but postcards will only be sent to growers who request them. This will insure that the program does not waste money sending it to growers who cannot or choose not to use the IPM information.

The IPM information is also available on request from county extension offices and is posted at some of the produce auctions.

As the public continues to be concerned about the amount of pesticides used on their food crops, it behooves growers to do everything in their ability to limit the amount of pesticides applied. These two IPM programs supported over the years by grower assessment funds have been de-

veloped to allow growers to obtain maximum crop protection with the least amount of pesticide applied at the optimum time. Both projects provide information on when the insect pest or disease pressure is the greatest.

In a given year, the programs may indicate more sprays should be applied than what ordinarily would be applied by straight calendar spray schedule in order to fully protect the crop. At other times, less sprays will be recommended. In the final analysis, the grower stands to gain either way. If less sprays are needed, the grower has less invested in pesticides and application costs. If more sprays are needed, the grower has a higher quality crop to sell.

Pennsylvania growers can be proud that they have supported these two IPM programs over the years and should utilize the information they generate. Dr. Alan MacNab's research on tomato disease forecasting laid the groundwork for similar forecasting systems in other states. Fleischer and Spangler's work with sweet corn insect monitoring is fine-tuning this important IPM tool for growers.

Growers who want the postcards sent to them during July and early August should call the Vegetable Marketing and Research Program at (717) 473-8468.

## USDA, Pa., Cumberland Conservation District Sign Agreement

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — The commonwealth of Pennsylvania signed its first revised agreement to strengthen its relationship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the commonwealth's 66 conservation districts in Cumberland County.

"The signing of this agreement will mark the renewal of a unique partnership that has existed for more than 50 years among federal, state and local leaders," said Janet L. Oertly, state conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. "This partnership has been responsible for some of the most important conservation achievements on private lands in this commonwealth."

The Mutual Agreement replaces the Basic Memorandum of Understanding which have existed between the secretary of agriculture and each of the nation's 3,000 soil and water conservation districts since the 1930s. The new mutual agreement allows for changes that better reflect the expanding conservation partnership and the changing scope and requirements of the conservation program.

The mutual agreement estab-

lishes the framework for cooperation among USDA, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and conservation districts. The one-page document, which serves as an umbrella for all 29 USDA agencies, allows the commonwealth and conservation districts to enter into other dynamic agreements to access USDA's programs and services, expertise, and human and financial resources.

USDA also has a second agreement, called the Cooperative Working Agreement. This agreement replaces the Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding.

The Cooperative Working Agreement defines a relationship among Natural Resources Conservation Service or other USDA agency, the State Conservation Commission, and the conservation district. This document is more detailed, flexible, and adaptable to local needs and priorities. It's intended to encourage local decisionmaking. A state committee is developing that agreement to best suit the natural resource needs of Pennsylvania. The Cooperative Working Agreement with all 66 conservation districts will be signed at a later date.

## N.Y. Farm Bureau Bolsters Legal Staff

**ALBANY, N.Y.** — Elizabeth (Liz) Corron Dribusch has been hired to fill the newly-created position of assistant counsel for the 25,000 member New York Farm Bureau.

A recent graduate of Albany Law School, Liz also has a master's degree from SUNY Albany, as well as a bachelor's degree from Siena College.

In her new position, Liz will primarily focus on legal research and writing in support of Farm Bureau's ever-increasing legal advocacy efforts as *amicus curiae* in important agriculturally-related litigation.

According to Jeff Kirby, NYFB's general counsel, "Liz

brings to Farm Bureau not only an excellent academic record, but also very strong legal research and writing skills, and a farming background, all of which I think combine to make her the perfect choice for this position. She gives Farm Bureau's Legal Department the additional skills and resources which we need to better handle our growing involvement in the agricultural legal arena."

A native of rural Clinton County, Liz currently resides in Schock, N.Y. with her husband, Christian.

## American Guernsey

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County).

"We were all very pleased," Jensen said. "It was a typical sale. You always have some near the bottom you had hoped would sell for more, but overall I was very pleased with the sale."

The average price of more than \$2,000 indicated the strength of the sale.

Jensen said the sale was one of the AGA's top two annual sales. He said that during the annual World Dairy Expb held at facilities in Madison, Wis., they hold the

International Guernsey Classic sale.

And while Jensen clarified that both sales promote a combination of type and production, the convention sale weighs slightly heavier in production emphasis in consignment selection, while the International slightly tends to consider type over production.

Of the overall convention and sale, Jensen said, "I think everybody enjoyed it a lot. The Maryland GBA did a good job with having a lot of interesting tours and a lot of Guernsey herds to see."



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