

dhia

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District Meetings

DAVE SLUSSER
General Manager

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pa. DHIA is conducting District Meetings throughout Pennsylvania as part of the association's and Board's report to the delegates. One hundred and twenty-five delegates have the opportunity to represent the membership in 11 meetings. The most important part of the program is the presentation of the strategic long range plan and the results to date.

The board has been developing the long range plan over the last year and a half. There are four major objective areas to the plan: 1) new products, services, and marketing techniques to meet pre-

sent and future member needs; 2) enhance performance, stability and opportunity for employees; 3) update membership, business and governance structures to meet changing member needs; and 4) to maximize leadership and service potential by seeking alliances, joint ventures, or even mergers that would benefit the future of our members.

As part of the plan, the board

was voted to downsize from 18 district directors to 11. The whole board will be up for re-election for either a one, two or three year term at these district meetings. The reasoning and the new Bylaws are being presented at the district meeting.

Also, as part of the strategic plan, the board has been seeking alliances, joint ventures, or mergers to benefit our members, and to spread development cost of our new programs and services over a larger cow base. Eleven different farm organizations have been contracted by staff or directors over the last year and a half. As a result of these efforts and because of Pa. DHIA's progressive leadership and sound financial position, CRI (Cooperative Resources International) has extended an invitation to Pa. DHIA to become an affiliate.

The board appointed a fact finding committee to study the possible benefits to our association by becoming an affiliate of CRI. Seven meetings have been held by the committee to meet with directors and staff of CRI and a progress report was given to the board

at the December meeting, and is to be presented to the delegates at the district meeting. The fact finding committee is not ready to make a recommendation, only a report. If the committee eventually finds the proposal beneficial to our members, first the board must act and then the delegates before Pa. DHIA can become an affiliate of CRI. The committee just wants to inform the delegates of its findings so far and seek feedback from the delegates.

CRI is a holding cooperative presently made up of AgSource (formerly Wisconsin DHIA), 21st Century Genetics, Noba and Genex, with their offices located in Shawano, Wisconsin.

Other business at the district meetings include a financial report, National DHIA rule change, Internet update, industry events and annual meeting plans.

As our members struggle with erratic milk and feed prices, farm cooperatives must continue to seek more efficient and progressive ways to help these farms carry their burden. The board and employees of Pa. DHIA are committed to meeting that need.

Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's last week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania.

Remember, these are averages, so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

Corn, No.2y — 2.97 bu., 5.32 cwt.

Wheat, No. 2 — 4.34 bu., 7.26 cwt.

Barley, No. 3 — 3.17 bu., 6.79 cwt.

Oats, No. 2 — 2.29 bu., 7.14 cwt.

Soybeans, No. 1 — 6.9 bu., 11.52 cwt.

Ear Corn — 76.00 ton, 3.8 cwt.

Alfalfa Hay — 138.75 ton, 6.94 cwt.

Mixed Hay — 135.50 ton, 6.78 cwt.

Timothy Hay — 128.75 ton, 6.44 cwt.

Attention 609 Tobacco Farmers

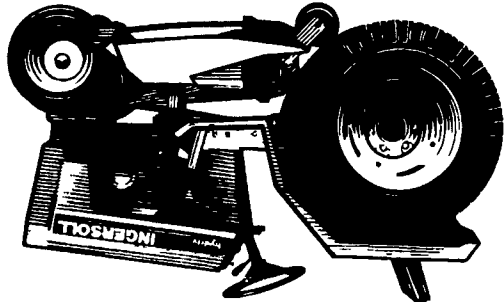
We need tobacco to remain in business. Sales have been good, buyers have been supportive but volume needs to be higher. The companies support auction in PA, but without farmer's support our Southern auction will be forced to close. Please send us your tobacco. Don't lose another tobacco auction!

FARMER'S TOBACCO WAREHOUSE

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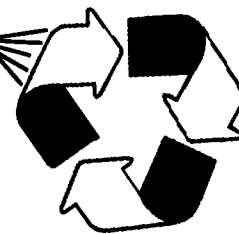
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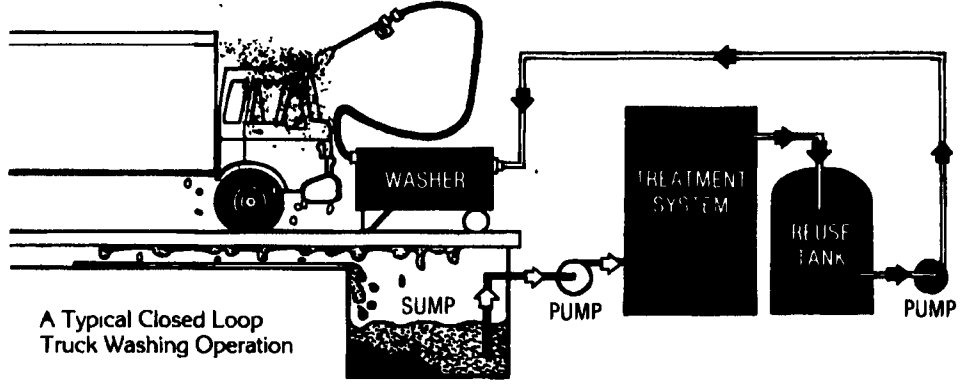


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- ALBERTA & RGF waste water treatment systems
- Much more!

WASTE WATER PRETREATMENT & RECYCLING



Since most of our area businesses are operated by good common sense people, there is a concern about waste and hazardous materials. Our goal is to relieve those concerns and provide local and state authorities to answer your questions. Throughout the day lectures with question and answer sessions will be held.

Spend The Day With Us!