

Two UM Ag Field Days Scheduled This Week

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Two University of Maryland Research and Education Centers (RECs) will showcase their work on behalf of farmers and farm families at separate locations on consecutive days, July 30 and 31. The Central Maryland REC

invites residents of southern and central Maryland to attend the 47th annual field day on Wednesday (July 30) at its Upper Marlboro facility in Prince George's County.

And the Western Maryland REC welcomes Piedmont area

dweller to its annual field day on Thursday (July 31) near Keedysville in Washington County. This year's field day will mark the 20th anniversary of the center's founding.

Both field days will get under way at 8:30 a.m. with wagon tours of research plots. Early arrivals will be able to participate in three or more different tours. Noon lunch will be available in shaded areas at moderate cost. Short programs after lunch will conclude the day's activities at each location.

The Western Maryland field day will feature a hog roast, with reservations requested by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday (July 29). Call (301) 432-2767, extension 307.

industries to wash and prepare the recycled bottles, and in other areas. While many initial jobs will be "grocery box boy" jobs to help collect and sort the bottles, he said, higher pay will occur in other sectors of the recycling industry.

When Oregon's Bottle Bill was first proposed to the state legislature in 1969, bottlers were opposed. But since its passage in 1971, "many people were actually pretty supportive here," said Spindelow.

The Oregon bill came on the heels of sweeping environmental legislation taking root in the early 1970s. Back then, said Spindelow, it was more of a litter issue. "People were aghast when they visited the parks on a Sunday and found it littered with thousands of bottles from the night before," and became very supportive of forced deposit legislation.

Since then, many industries have benefited from the bill and Oregon is a lot cleaner and rural areas are safe for farms and rural

residents alike. The Oregon Bottle Bill includes provisions that indicate all beer and soft drink containers must have a minimum refund value clearly marked, paid by distributor to dealer and by dealer to consumer. Minimum refund value of each container is 5 cents. Anyone may establish a container redemption center.

Mel Eckhaus, director of state legislative programs for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, said the bureau has been "putting the pressure on all year" to get the bill passed. George Moyer and other farmers insist the time is now for farmers to get their voices heard.

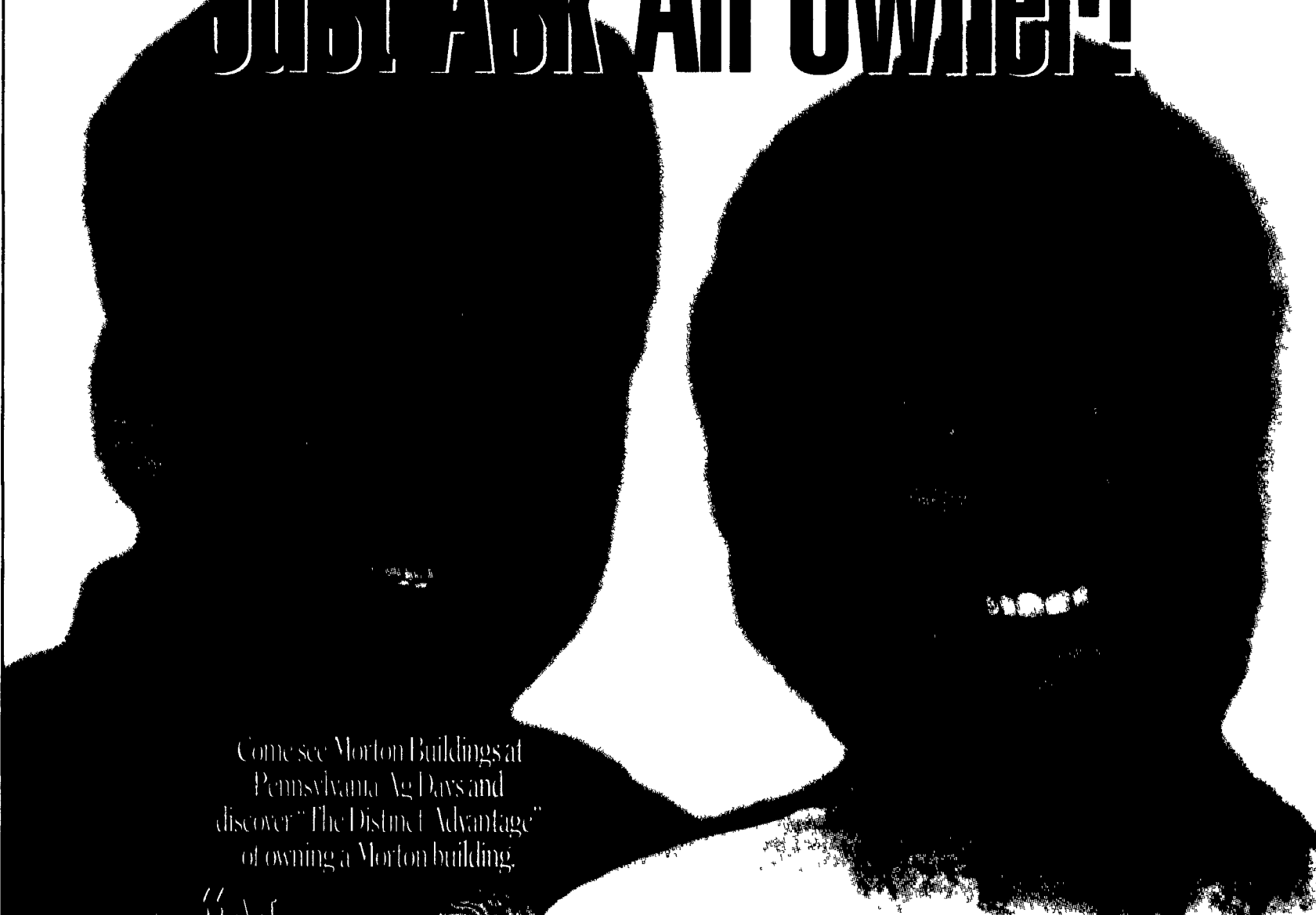
Lancaster Farming has responded by printing a petition to gather signatures of people who want Pennsylvania's Bottle Bill passed. It is included in this issue.

Until then, more work will be ongoing to convince legislators of the need for a bottle bill, according to Eckhaus.

"We're going to get the signatures, county by county," he said.

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