Penn State Features IPM At Farm Show

UNIVERSITY PARK. (Centre County) - Integrated pest management (IPM), a crop production system that combines a wide array of physical, biological and chemical approaches to manage pest insects, diseases, weeds and rodents, is growing in populari-

Visitors to the Pennsylvania State Farm Show, Jan. 10-15 in Harrisburg, can find out exactly

what IPM is and how it benefits agriculture, consumers and the environment.

The Pennsylvania IPM program, a collaboration between Penn State and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, will feature several IPM-related displays at the Penn State College Agricultural Sciences booth in the Main Exhibits Hall of the Farm Show complex.

Poster Contest Under Way

SUNBURY (Northumberland Co.) - Robert Pardoe Jr., chairman of the board of directors of the Northumberland County Conservation District, announces the annual poster contest cosponsored by Furman Foods of Northumberland and the conservation district is under way for students within Northumberland Count.

The contest, open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade, offers young people an opportunity to express their thoughts on natural resources through the medium of art.

"There are anywhere from 1,000 to 2,000 posters submitted in the annual contest, and the job of judging them can be quite challenging. But we feel it is worth the time and effort to give county students the opportunity to show through artwork what they know about environmental issues," said Pardoe. "In fact, we look forward to seeing the mix of ideas and talents.'

Posters submitted to the conservation district can pertain to environmental However, for winning posters to advance to the state and national levels, they must pertain to one of two themes; 1) Wonders of Wildlife, emphasizing the relationship between wildlife habitat and proper land management, and 2) Nature's Web; Caring for the Land, the National Wildlife theme. Posters that win at the state level will advance to the national level.

Northumberland County Conservation District submitted a poster by Ian Chucoski of Shamokin in the 10-12th grade category to the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District's state competition in July. Ian's poster won 1st place and has now been submitted to the National Association of Conservation District's contest.

Cash awards are provided by Furman Foods and this year there will be five categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. First through eighth place ribbons in each grade category are provided by the conservation district as well as honorable mention certificates to those who enter outstanding posters. Posters for 1st through 8th place finishers will be displayed during the conservation district's annual awards banquet, March 12.

Pardoe said, "We encourage all county students to enter our contest, whether they attend public or private schools, including those who are homeschooled." For information on the poster contest, call the conservation district office at (717) 988-4224.

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"By using available information about what pests are present, their life cycles and behavior, and the range of control options, IPM often can help growers rely less on chemical pesticides.: says Edwin Rajotte, Penn State IPM coordinator and associate professor of entomology. "And that, in turn, reduces environmental impact, enhances agricultural worker and food safety, contributes to farm profitability and minimizes the chances that pests will develop resistance to pesticides."

The IPM displays will include several interactive exhibits:

-"IPM Tool Time" will feature a small garden of plants with a variety of traps and other IPM tools and technologies on display.

- "IMP and the Consumer" will center on a re-created Wegman's supermarket aisle

containing various canned vegetable products. Wegman's, a regional grocery chain based in New York, has established an IPM labeling program to educate consumers about the benefits of buying products grown using certified IPM standards.

 A display focusing on IPM information sources will feature production guides and other printed materials, as well as a live toll-free telephone service that producers can call for updates on pest infestations or for scheduled pesticide education programs around the state.

In addition, visitors will learn about biological control by watching through a microscope as ladybugs devour pest aphids; view exotic insects, such as Australian walking sticks and giants cockroaches; and use a computer to identify insects.

There are an estimated 7

million or more species of insects, but only about 350 species are considered pests,' says Rajotte. "Because you need to know you have a pest problem before you can control it, insect identification is a key component of IPM."

In addition to the IPM information, the Penn State exhibit also will contain a display on the deregulation of electricity generation in Pennsylvania. Visitors will be able to pick up free fact sheets on choosing an electricity supplier. Those completing a survey on electricity deregulation consumer issues will receive a free refrigerator magnet.

The Farm Show opens to the public on January 10 and closes on January 15. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday. Parking is \$5 and admission is free.

See Our Display At

PA FARM SHOW **JAN 10-15**

MAIN FLOOR #659

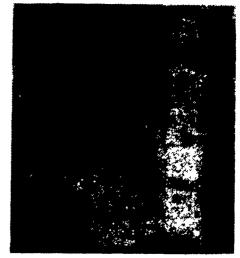
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