

## Trade Tour To China Set

New Tripoli - In just a few weeks a group of Pennsylvania agriculture and agribusiness people will leave on a ten-day study tour of China. They will explore the growing opportunities for agricultural exchange and trade. The group will be led by Kathleen Hamm Jones, a former Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, who has extensive business experience in Asia.

The first event on the tour is Asia's largest agricultural exhibit, called AGRO EXPO CHINA '98 in Beijing April 21-24. Following this introduction to Chinese agribusiness, the group will fly to the northern province of Shandong, where they have been invited to visit agriculture and agribusiness sites, meet with government officials to learn about agricultural investment and technology needs, and opportunities for agricultural and agribusiness trade.

In addition, the group will have the rare opportunity to visit Chinese homes, gaining a glimpse into the daily lives and consumer habits of an average Chinese family. Before leaving

Hong Kong on May 1, the group will be hosted by the Honk Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), where they will learn how Hong Kong serves as an international gateway to China trade and commerce.

Kathleen began to organize the tour shortly after returning to her family's farm in Lehigh County, after eleven years living and working in Asia. After seeing the excitement of the Chinese friends and colleagues who visited her on the farm, and attending the International Trade Show of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg in January, she decided to organize the tour to help people make contacts with each other.

"Trying to figure out the China market without direct contacts is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock," says Kathleen. "I want to help people to get beyond statistics and news reports to experience the daily life of Chinese people. After all, China is one of US agriculture's biggest customers. Don't you think we should know more

about our customers?"

If every person in China eats one egg a day, to feed the hens would require the entire US annual grain output. That's now. Every year, another 15 million people are added, a few million more than all of Pennsylvania. 65% of all Chinese work in agri-

culture, compared to less than 2% in the USA. Even if you add in US food processing, it's still only 12%. Though China has 7% of all the land in the world, only 10% of that can be cultivated. "China knows it has to improve its agriculture," says Kathleen. "Chinese are coming to

Pennsylvania more often because they want to establish trade relations, and they know of our reputation for fine agriculture and agribusiness. And to quote Ben Franklin, a nation was never destroyed by trade.

The ten-day tour will leave for Beijing from Philadelphia on April 20 and return from Hong Kong on May 1. Kathleen (Hamm) Jones will accompany the tour personally, using her skills in both Chinese and Pa "Dutch" to facilitate exchange between the two sides. In designing the tour, she drew extensively upon her seven years experience as Research Director of ACR, a Hong Kong marketing research company, where she designed and supervised research and analysis of markets in Hong Kong and China, as well as other East and SE Asian nations. Space on the tour is limited. For more information and to reserve your space, you can contact Jones at 1-888-GO-PA (1-888-467-2172)

## NAJ Director Nominations Due

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — Nominations of candidates for director of National All-Jersey Inc. are due April 29.

Nominations for director require the signatures of 10 active members who live in the district. These must also be filed with the executive secretary of the association.

One director with a four-year term is to be elected, and one

director with a four-year term is to be appointed. The current directors may succeed themselves.

The election will be held at the annual meeting of the NAJ at the Radisson on the Waterfront, Burlington, Vt., at 7 a.m. on June 27.

The elected director whose term expires at the 1998 Annual Meeting is William Barlass, Janesville, Wis., District 4. The appointed director with a term expiring is Richard Riggs, Evansville, Ind., District 8.



## Lancaster Crops Day

(Continued from Page A25)

variety and cutting at the right time can produce a lot of forage capability for the grower.

Dennis Calvin reviewed the elements that cause pesticide resistance in plants. He used the example of a lawn, filled with dandelions, of which most of the flowering plants have stems which are at or below grass height. The reason? Because, after successive mowing, only those plants which produce flowers that can survive the lawnmower blades and grow underneath blade height are "selected" to survive, making them prevalent in the yard.

The same applies to the use of herbicides to control weeds.

There may be only one in a million plants that can resist any given herbicide. But eventually, those plants are "selected," eventually, to survive. They become difficult to control.

From 1908 through the 1980s, about 450 different species — including weeds and insects — became resistant to pesticides. Many products for weed control were invented, and it now takes less time for those weeds to develop resistance.

One of the most adaptable insect pests is the Colorado potato beetle, according to Calvin. It has become resistant to a wide array of pesticides. It is even beginning to show resistance to Bt corn.

Producers must adapt new methods of "resistance management" to deal with the beetle. This includes uses of certain pesticides and combining pesticide use, selecting the dose wisely, frequency of application, coverage, and rotation of use.

The "kill them all" anti-insect strategies of the past can help speed up genetic resistance. It's more important now to kill some but allow some to survive, so that resistance is actually slowed down. "Resistance management needs to start before you see the problem," said Calvin.

It's important to leave susceptible individuals in the field, choose short-residue material, leave some habitat for susceptibility, and to tolerate "sub-economic pest densities," Calvin said.

One newer method to control the European corn borer, noted Calvin, is the use of Bt corn. The Bt corn creates a toxin which the borer eats, killing the insect. Many believe this is a biological control element. Actually, according to the entomologist, it's "another pesticide. It sounds like biocontrol, but it isn't," he said.

Calvin outlined ways to keep genetic resistance buildup low with the corn borer. The simple way is to plant one field to Bt corn and an adjacent field, not more than 1,000 feet away, to non-Bt varieties.

Calvin noted that it's important to maintain the long-term viability of Bt corn hybrid technology by managing resistance.

"If not, we could lose this quickly," he said. At the same time, it's a good idea to not plant all corn fields to a narrow number of varieties. It's a good idea to have variety in the fields. And not every field has enough corn borer at any given time to justify the use of the technology.

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