

# Seedmen Discuss Industry Issues At Winter Meeting

(Continued from Page A32)

Ridge Administration to promote PEQAP.

Another issue that seed developers, marketers, and sales representatives will ultimately have to deal with is invasive plant species.

Invasive plant species are those that pose environmental threats to Pennsylvania ecosystems.

Some of those plants were introduced intentionally as landscape plants, ground cover, or are simply weeds such as tree of heaven, ground ivy, velvetleaf, bur cucumber, honeysuckle, and others.

More work needs to be done to identify and manage the invasive species and to develop research in ways to overcome them.

This year's Atlantic Seedsmen's Association (ASA) convention, in Mystic, Ct., had the issues of invasive species, biotechnology, and arbitration "front and center," noted Dr. John E. Baylor, ASA's executive director.

ASA, which expects to have a Web site up and running by the end of the month, is a regional association for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic seed-producing states.

Baylor became involved with ASA in January 1987 as a way to encourage seed industry representatives to become more involved with the issues confronting the

industry.

Baylor noted that the next ASA convention is scheduled Oct. 15-17, 2000, at Niagara On The Lake, a town in Ontario, Canada, about 20 miles north of Niagara Falls.

Baylor noted two developments. First, the Pasto Agricultural Museum located at the Penn State Ag Progress Days research farm in Rockspring is going through some changes, becoming more independent and establishing its own bylaws. It plans to conduct a silent auction at the 2000 Ag Progress Days to raise funds for its operation. Baylor encourages donations from the industry.

The 50th anniversary of the ASA is in the year 2002.

Baylor, also with the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC), noted that the 40th anniversary of PFGC is in 2000. There is a special event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of PFGC at Wayne Harpster's farm on Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the evening.

Outgoing president Steve Smith noted that last year's Ag Progress Days had a record number of exhibitors, at 340. Seven thousand people went through the corn maze at the site.

Smith also noted that there is a very good chance that product sales will be allowed on site at next

year's Rockspring event. And overnight camping for exhibitors only at this time could be allowed on a limited basis.

Sue Binger provided an assessment of the effect of this summer's drought on farm seed. She said that the past year "was a very trying year in the Northeast," with most areas experiencing if not a severe drought, others at best "dry conditions," Binger said.

Corn and soybean crops could experience some quality problems. Soybeans have shown quality problems with seed in tests. The market will be good on most alfalfas. But extremely high prices will exist for two types of forages, timothy and reed canarygrass. Both are in short supply and high prices should be expected. However, clovers are abundant and prices should average about the same as last year.

Andy Ernst spoke about this year's scholarships from the seedmen's association. Two went to Penn State students and one to a student at Delaware Valley College.

Steven DeBroux, assistant professor of agronomy and environmental sciences at Delaware Valley College, spoke about the focus on several programs. One of those is a study on ways to reduce the amount of phosphorus in manure.

The research is focusing on making the feed more digestible with the fiber, allowing the animal to extract and utilize more phosphorus from the feed.

The college also has new greenhouses that are stocking new variety trials.

Two new organizations, Barenbrug and Grassland Inc., have joined the seedmen's association.

Earl Haas of the PDA noted that the governor recently allocated \$5 million to help with assistance in the form of hay to farmers because of the drought. About 350 tons have been moved from Wisconsin to Ford Indiantown Gap, distributed to about 58 farmers at 5-6 tons per farmer. The balance of the \$5 million will be paid in terms of rebates to farmers who purchased hay. About \$50-\$60 per ton will be rebated to the purchase and \$40 per ton to transportation.

The bureau has also been grap-

pling with the plum pox virus issue. A two-mile quarantine has been established in an area of Adams County, of which it is most likely, he said, the orchards in the quarantine would have to be destroyed.

Experts have arrived from Europe this week to meet with the PDA and USDA to plan strategy for the control of the plum pox virus, which harms fruit quality and production.

Fred Mohr, incoming president for the Pennsylvania Seedmen's Association, read an outline of several changes at Penn State. Four new positions have been opened and two have been filled so far.

The positions include a soil microbial ecologist, a turfgrass sciences specialist, a soil management and applied soil physics specialist, and a plant geneticist.

## New Holland Vegetable Day, Jan. 17

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Food safety, high tunnels, use of compost on vegetables, insect and disease management, trickle irrigation and plasticulture, and new vegetable varieties are just a few of the 14 different topics at the 2000 New Holland Vegetable Day Jan. 17. The meeting is sponsored by the Eastern Lancaster County School District and Lancaster County Cooperative Extension.

There will be something for everyone. If you are interested in marketing you won't want to miss the grower's panel discussing their experiences at "grower's only" markets or Bob Rouse's talk on "Marketing and Merchandising." Greenhouse growers will want to attend the session on "Greenhouse Disease Control" or sit in on the "Transplant Production Tips" session by grower Dave Miller. Dr. Shelby Fleischer from Penn State will discuss "New insecticides and their use."

Recent outbreaks of e coli

bacteria in vegetables and fruit and how they can be prevented will be the focus of a general session by Anu Rangarajan from Cornell University. Alan MacNab from Penn State will lead the other general session with a discussion of diseases in vegetables "Field Grown Cut Flowers" and "Strawberry Insect Control" round out the program.

Pesticide credits will be available at some sessions.

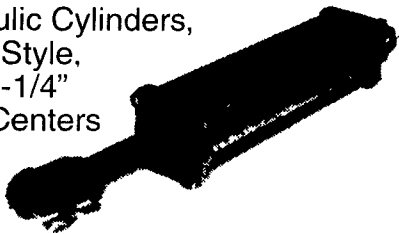
The meeting will be Monday, Jan. 17 at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland. Yoder's is located along Rt. 23 at the eastern edge of New Holland. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Cost for the day is \$7 per person if you preregister by Jan. 12, or \$12 per person at the door. Lunch is provided.

For more information contact Jeff Stoltzfus at (717) 354-1522. To register send the enclosed form along with a check for the appropriate amount to Adult Farmer Program, 126 Eastern School Road, New Holland, PA 17557.

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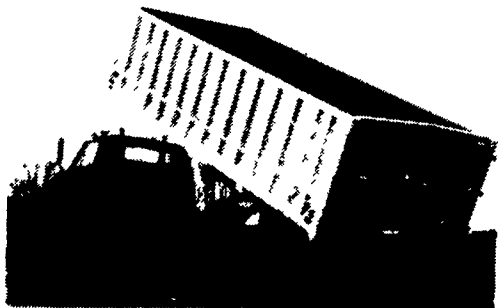
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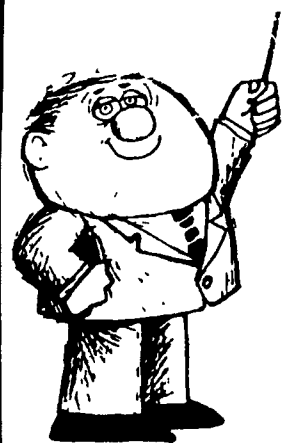
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