

No-Till Planners Schedule Conference

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — During the past quarter-century, the Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference has introduced a conservation concept that was new to many crop farmers and provided helpful information on how no-till adopters could refine their cropping practices to achieve the greatest profit potential.

"Hot" topics over the years have included no-till drilling techniques, machinery adjustments, nitrogen application, weed control, crop rotation, and soil compaction.

To start off its second 25 years, the conference will offer breakout sessions and roundtable discussions on topics such as cover crops, narrow-row silage, zone tillage, manure management, no-till vegetable production, and the soil phosphorus index.

For the first time, the conference is scheduled at two locations

on consecutive days — Feb. 24 in the Four Points Hotel at Hagerstown, Md., and Feb. 25 in the Holiday Inn at Grantville, Pa.

As in all previous years, the conference is sponsored by cooperative extension at land-grant universities and by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in participating states, with assistance from interested agribusinesses and related organizations.

Identical sessions will run from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at both locations. A \$20 registration fee, payable by Feb. 16, will include lunch

at one location. After Feb. 16, the fee is \$25.

Registration brochures will be available soon at many Cooperative Extension county offices in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Or contact Joel C. Myers, Pennsylvania state agronomist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1 Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993, (717) 237-2208.

Interested exhibitors may contact Mark Goodson, Penn State Cooperative Extension, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402, (717) 840-7408.

Will Hilty Jr., Mount Pleasant, shows a bred gilt, representative of the dozen he is prepared to show at the state Farm Show. Checking his catalog, he found that she is listed as lot 105 and was born Feb. 8, 1999. For breeding stock, Will says that their family looks for a boar that will compensate for any weaknesses that might be present in the sow herd. They traveled to Ohio for one of their newest acquisitions, paying \$1,500 for a young, lean boar. Photo by David Hiebert



Families Anticipate Farm Show

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<http://www.state.pa.us/PA-Exec/Agriculture/bureau/farm-show/farmshow2000/fsfacts.html>, "The PA Farm Show Scholarship Foundation awards \$2,000 scholarships prior to the sale. In 1999, 19 students received these scholarships.

Ben, 18, plans to study agricultural biological engineering. He has looked at the course of study and found that it includes power and machinery, farm structures, soil management, and food service.

Fayette County families will also be at the Farm Show, possibly in larger numbers than the Westmoreland crowd.

Charles Wolfe Jr., Grindstone, thinks about 30 from his county — Fayette — will make it to the Farm Show this year. As a family, he said, "we do it every year, including the one with the big snow!" His oldest son will not make it, since he is in school, but he had been going since he was 8.

Not all from the county will be showing animals, but "it is a good experience for the kids," he said. "There is the chance to compete or go to the bigger show. The sights, sounds, and food are all part of the adventure."

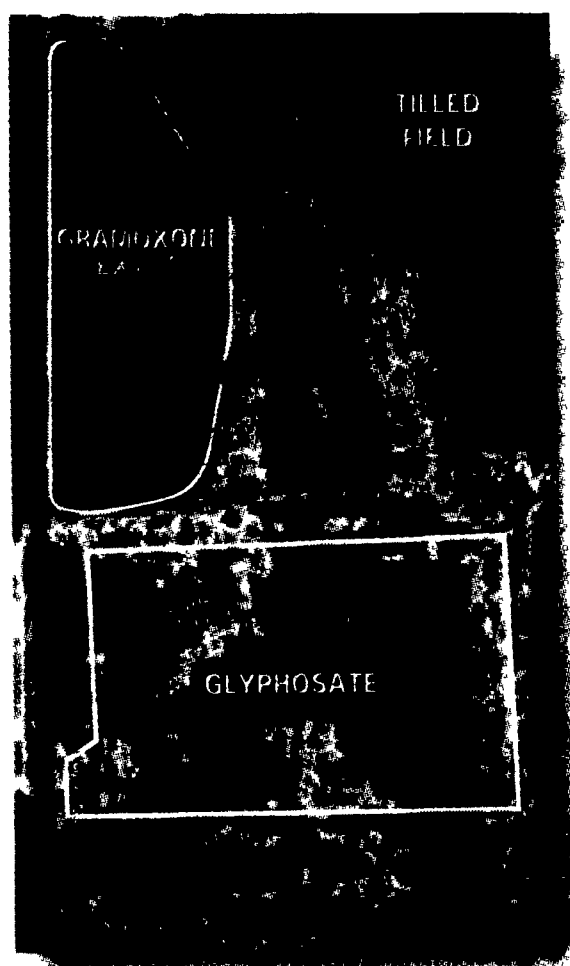
Entries from Fayette County include steers, lambs, and hogs. Those teens not showing are admitted at half the adult admission price.

In preparing the animals, Wolfe said too much feed can be a problem, so the animals that will be shown are exercised and groomed every day. They watch for too much weight gain and control it by limiting feed and using a high protein diet. Each of his children at home — Rachel Sue, 17, and David, 14 — will be taking a hog, and the wife and mother Lucille will also be attending.

Rich Townsend, McClellandtown, will also be traveling with the group from Fayette. The group has three or four trailers lined up to take the animals. Rich is a 4-H leader and on the state swine committee. At the state level, he said the 160 animals that are entered will be judged, with about half making the sale.

Though his girls have outgrown the 4-H program and will not participate this year, he is looking forward to a granddaughter being part of the show next year.

He notes that the 4-H program in Fayette is strong, with about 140 members, 15 volunteer adult leaders, and six teens in leadership roles.



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