

Lancaster County Approved For Grazing Loss Payments

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Sign-up for the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) ends January 21.

The Livestock Assistance Program provides direct payments to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses because of drought during 1999. Nationwide, \$200 million is allocated to the program.

Farm Service Agency Announces CRP Sign-Up

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Kathryn Heil, county executive director, announced that a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up will be conducted Jan. 18 - Feb. 11.

"This is another opportunity for landowners to sign up for a voluntary program to get financial and technical assistance for improving their land, water, and wildlife resources," Heil said. "If you haven't tried to get into the program, if your CRP contract offers were not accepted in the sign-up last year, or if you have contracts expiring next fall, this is the time to make new contract offers."

The CRP is designed to improve America's natural resource base. Landowners enter into contracts with the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to enroll erodible and other environmentally sensitive land in contracts for 10 - 15 years. In exchange, they receive annual rental payments and a payment for up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing approved practices.

The CCC will continue to evaluate and rank all eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI), which is based on the potential environmental benefits from enrolling the land in the CRP. The EBI is composed of six environmental factors (wildlife habitat cover benefits, water quality benefits, on-farm benefits, of reduced erosion, benefits enduring beyond the contract period, air quality benefits, and conservation priority areas) plus a cost factor.

Maximum CRP payments will be determined based on county average dryland cash or cash rent equivalent rental rates adjusted for site-specific, soil-based productivity factors. CRP payments can include an additional amount, not to exceed \$5 per acre per year, as an incentive to perform certain maintenance obligations. Cost-share assistance will be provided to establish approved cover on land enrolled in CRP.

Eligibility for benefits for an individual producer is based on whether drought caused the producer in Lancaster County to suffer a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing for three consecutive months during 1999.

Eligible livestock are beef and dairy cattle, buffalo or beefalo, sheep, goats, swine, and equine

Interested producers and landowners should contact the Lancaster County Farm Service Agency office, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Room 2, Lancaster, PA 17601. Phone (717) 397-6235 for more information.

animals used commercially for human food or kept for the production of food or fiber on the owner's farm. Livestock must be owned for at least three months before they become eligible for LAP benefits.

Specifically, producers must possess beneficial interest in eligible livestock or have financial risk in eligible livestock, report eligible livestock and supporting grazing acreage and report the percent of grazing loss. The development of a conservation plan, if not already done, must be completed along with a certification of implementation.

Producers with qualifying gross income in excess of \$2.5 million are not eligible.

LAP assistance is based upon the value of feed calculated on a corn equivalency basis required for eligible livestock during the three-month period where a minimum 40 percent feed loss occurred. A producer must have sufficient grazing available for eligible livestock to be eligible for the maximum payment; otherwise,

payment will be based on grazing losses instead of needs.

Applications for benefits must be filed with the Farm Service Agency by Jan. 21. When you apply, you will be required to provide the following information: number, kind of livestock, and weight range of livestock you owned during 1999, and your share in those livestock; acres, location, and type of grass or forage on which you experienced a loss; an estimated percent of loss in grazing; and information about significant changes in livestock number including dates when changes occurred. A producer can receive LAP benefits and also receive benefits under any other program administered by USDA.

More information is available at the Lancaster County FSA office located at the Farm and Home Center.

Master Gardeners

(Continued from Page A39)

of training from extension agents, faculty, and other Master Gardeners in botany, entomology, plant pathology, soils, plant propagation, communication skills and other topics. Master Gardeners then are expected to volunteer 50 hours of their time in their first year in the program. In each subsequent year, they must take eight hours of training and volunteer a minimum of 20 hours to remain in the program.

Costs differ from county to county, but every candidate must pay \$35 to cover the cost of the program's training manual and an official Master Gardener name tag.

Penn State's College Of Ag

(Continued from Page A34)

collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture that promotes ways to manage pests in environmentally compatible ways. "We purchased an old Volkswagen beetle, repainted it as a ladybug and are developing displays to go with it," said education specialist Lyn Garling. "Our goal is to educate people about 'good' versus 'bad' insects, the benefits of using IPM if you have a pest problem, and how to choose and use pesticides correctly."

Parents and prospective students can gain information about educational programs, including the interdepartmental program in agroecosystems science and the graduate degree in entomology. Visitors also can ask questions

about bug problems.

The Ag Advocates, a student organization that explains agriculture to the public, will staff the main recruitment area. They will answer questions about undergraduate programs, as well as refer parents and prospective students to faculty at the various subject exhibits.

Other highlights include an Ag Progress Day video. "We'll also provide free publications at the Penn State Cooperative Extension exhibit area and help people order for-sale publications," said MacIsaac.

The Farm Show opens to the public on Jan. 8 and closes on Jan. 13. 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.

OPEN TUE-FRI. 9-6, SAT., NOV-MARCH OR BY APPT.
IF YOU'RE CURIOUS...COME TO

ECKMAN'S CURIOSITY

5 Juniper Lane • Lititz, PA

(located in 3 story building behind Hess clothing)

ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE PLACES
IN LITITZ!!!

When travelling thru Lititz feel free to stop in and browse

mailing address

1315 Front St.
Lititz, PA 17543

phone #s

Bus. 717.627.7358
Home 717.627.4978

You're Invited To Our

OPEN HOUSE

TWO FULL WEEKS

ABBOTTSTOWN

JAN. 17 Thru Jan. 22

OPEN MON. THRU THURS. 8:00-5:00;
FRI. 8:00-7:00; SAT. 8:00-1:00

ELIZABETHTOWN:

Jan. 24 thru Jan. 29

OPEN MON., TUES. 7:30-5:00; WED. THRU FRI. 7:30-9:00;
SAT. 7:30-2:00

✓ CHECK NEXT WEEK'S PAPER
TO SEE MESSICK'S INSERT FOR
COMPLETE DETAILS & SPECIALS

ELIZABETHTOWN ONLY:

Bring Your Sprayer Tips In &
Have Tested For Accuracy

ADD UP TO 10% SAVINGS WITH
CALCULATOR FREE WHEN SCHEDULING SERVICE
WORK OVER \$500 DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

MESSICK'S

SERVING TWO LOCATIONS

NEW HOLLAND
Credit Company

RD #1 Box 225A,
Route 30
Abbottstown, PA 17301

717-259-6617

Rheems Exit - Route 283
Elizabethtown, PA

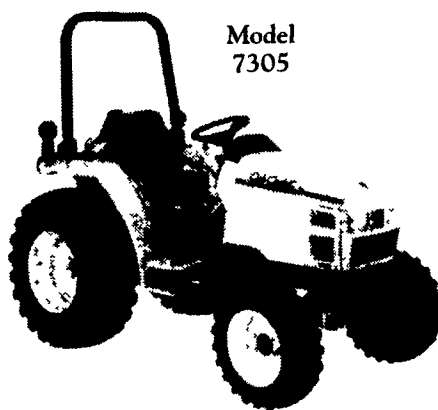
717-367-1319

717-653-8867

NEW HOLLAND



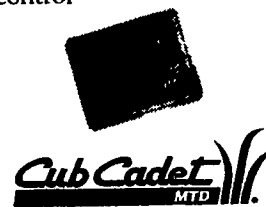
You Work Hard. They Work Hard.



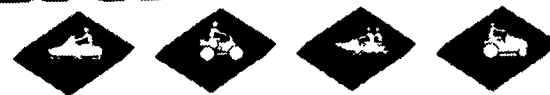
Model
7305

- 30 HP, 3-cylinder liquid-cooled diesel engine
- 4WD, hydrostatic transmission for easy operation and foot-pedal speed control
- Three speed ranges with cruise control will meet any demand with ease
- Hydrostatic power steering with a dedicated pump for consistent and reliable control

Buy Now And Enjoy
Special Financing
Call For Details



SPORTS 'N' TURF



515 North Reading Road, Rt. 272, Ephrata, PA 17522
717-733-4151 1-800-522-3714 (PA Only)

The Polaris RANGER, general purpose off-road utility vehicle, is not intended and may not be registered for on-road use. © 1998 Polaris Industries Inc.