

# International Conference Focuses On Plastics In Agriculture

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Farmers, horticulture industry workers, plastics manufacturers and suppliers, educators, and other interested professionals from both the U.S. and abroad can see firsthand how new uses for plastics have transformed agriculture at "Plasticulture 2000," the 15th International and 29th National Agricultural Plastics Congress, Sept. 23-27 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey.

"This congress is a golden opportunity to see and hear about the latest top cutting-edge research and methods in plasticulture," said Michael Orzolek, program chair and professor of vegetable crops in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "You also can see active field demonstrations of machinery, crops grown in plasticulture systems and five special tours."

The congress is hosted by Penn State and sponsored by the American Society for Plasticulture and the Comité International des Plastiques en Agriculture. A three- to four-day tour of farms and agribusinesses in New Jersey is scheduled before the conference opens on Sept. 23.

Sponsored by Rutgers Uni-

versity, and starting in Newark, N.J., attendees will see production agriculture farms using drip irrigation, plastic film mulch, and greenhouse technologies. As the tour approaches Hershey, visits to historic sites near Philadelphia also are scheduled.

The congress opens Sept. 23, with a general assembly. On Sunday, Sept. 24, attendees will hear a keynote speech on "Plasticulture in the Global Community" and four other plenary presentations on various elements of plasticulture. Later in the day, roundtable discussions will address drip irrigation, greenhouse technology, packaging technology, and plastic technology that will extend the growing season.

On Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 25-26, more than 80 researchers from the United States and various foreign countries will give research presentations on greenhouse

production, row covers and high/low tunnels, use of plastics in vegetable, fruit and ornamental crop production, and plastics in packaging and livestock operations. Plastics disposal, reuse, and recycling also will be covered.

The conference includes an extensive trade show Sept. 26 and 27, according to William Lamont, program co-chair and Penn State associate professor of vegetable crops.

On the final day, Wednesday, Sept. 27, visitors can take one of five tours to agricultural businesses in central and southeast Pennsylvania. Tours will visit commercial fruit operations, vegetable operations, commercial greenhouses, ornamental nurseries, and businesses specializing in plastic packaging technology.

For more information on Plasticulture 2000, call The American Society for Plasticulture at (814) 238-7045 or visit the society's Website: <http://www.plasticulture.org>.

## Beekeepers To Meet

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Have you ever thought about becoming a beekeeper? Are you interested in nature?...Agriculture? Do

you know how important honey bees are to agriculture?

The Capitol Area Beekeepers Association is offering its 13th annual Short

### The Farmstand: Direct Marketing Tips



(Continued from Page 12)

peanut butter, they receive a "correction" to their moist nose.

The highly visible polywire and peanut butter baits on a charged wire provide an effective deterrent to feeding inside the wire. This system is generally good on areas up to five acres. The baits must be maintained with fresh peanut butter every 2-4 weeks and care needs to be given in planning the location for the enclosure. Locating this psychological barrier in a long used deer thruway will not have any effect, as they will leap over the wires. This system is very inexpensive because the only costs are for fiberglass posts, polywire, a little miscellaneous hardware, peanut butter, and a charger. Solar-powered battery chargers can make this system completely portable to those areas on your farm with no power.

The concept with all elec-

tric fencing is to train the deer to stay out of an area. Start before your crop needs protection and maintain the fence. Don't turn it off during the time that you want protection because the deer will periodically test the wire and go through if the system is off. During high snow periods, your fence may become ineffective.

For more information on deer control methods:

•Penn State: Deer: Pennsylvania Wildlife Nuisance and Damage #12.

•University of Maryland Cooperative Extension: Controlling Deer Damage in Maryland, Wildlife Management Series Low-Cost Electric Deer Fence, Wildlife Management Series.

•Virginia Cooperative Extension: Low-Cost Slant Fence Excluded Deer from Plantings (web article from Charlie O'Dell).

Course In Basic Beekeeping, May 20 from noon to 5 at the Milton Hershey Farm Conference Center and Apiary in Hershey.

For a registration form, location maps, and lodging information, contact Maria Contino, Secretary, 6087 Rockland Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112, or call (717) 657-3932.

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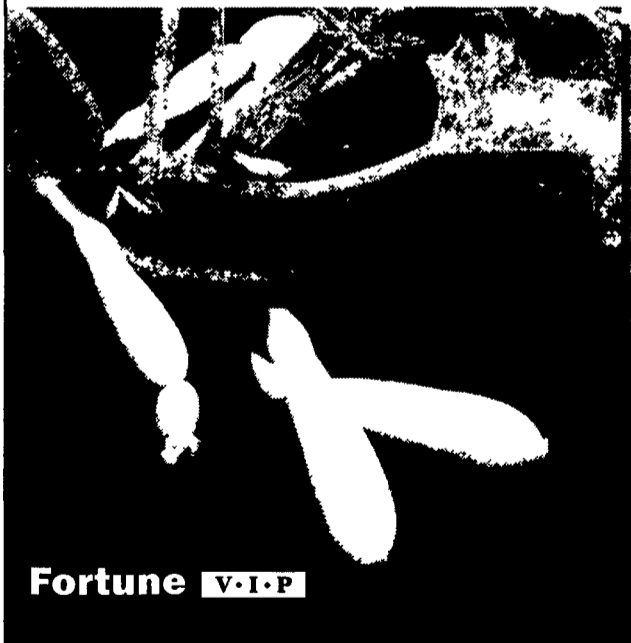
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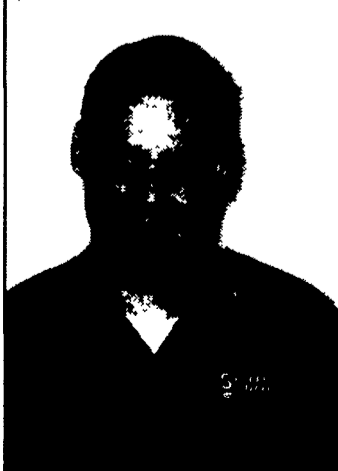
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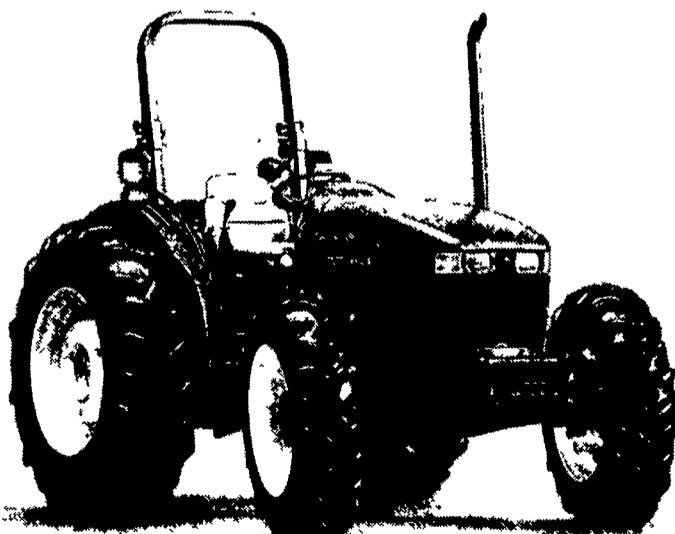
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