

Groff Field Day 'Exchange' Emphasizes Environmentally Friendly Farming

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Society, said Rominger, expects farmers to be environmental stewards. But there are no financial rewards. However, the proposed 2000 Farm Bill "builds on the successes we've had," he said, with previous Farm Bills.

The proposed new bill enhances additional conservation and land stewardship programs, and could allow programs to actually pay farmers as a reward for carrying out those programs.

As a token of appreciation for his visit Wednesday, Groff presented Rominger with a baseball cap inscribed with the words, "Soil Is Meant To Be Covered."

Rominger, who has served as president of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association, noted afterward that farmers should be called "environmental managers."

If the Farm Bill passes, to be paid directly for their efforts, Rominger noted that approved conservation practices have to be in place and best management practices, including cover

crops and some form of minimum tillage, would have to be employed.

The payment would be graded on a scale yet to be figured out by the type of practice.

Rominger was selected Agriculturalist of the Year at the California State Fair in 1992.

Dr. Robert Steele, dean of agriculture for Penn State, spoke about the continuing partnership between university, industry, and the federal government that make field days like Groff's possible.

About 350 producers and agri-industry representatives attended the field day, despite pouring rain. Some demonstrations were canceled at the field day because of the inclement weather.

Groff farms with wife Cheri and children, Dana, 7; Lauren, 6; and David, 3. Steve's work was profiled in *Lancaster Farming* in the early '90s and was featured in a three-part PBS TV miniseries, "Journey to Planet Earth." Groff was also selected as the 1999 National No-Till Innovator of the Year.



Despite heavy rain, about 350 attended the field day at Cedar Meadow Farm on Wednesday. Many spent time inside the huge exhibitor tent.

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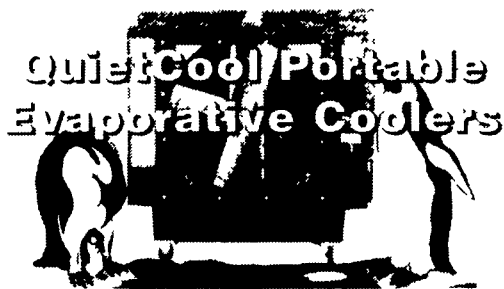
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