

# Scott Harkcom Is New Manager Of Agronomy Research Farm



UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — When Lynn Hoffman announced his retirement in 1999 as manager of the agronomy research farm, Steve Fales, department head, said “I was praying this wouldn’t happen on my watch.”

Now it seems that the department has a worthy successor to manage the farm.

Scott Harkcom worked for seven years as assistant manager of the farm under Hoffman. “With all his experience over the years, Lynn always had an answer,” said Harkcom. “I have to rely on a lot more people for answers now that Lynn’s not around.”

In his role as manager, Harkcom supervises three full-time employees and several hourly employees. To-

gether, the team oversees the operation of the 600-acre farm, about one-third of which is used for small plot research. The remainder is used for production agriculture and precision agriculture research.

Asked about the differences between managing a farm for research rather than for production agriculture, Harkcom said that a research farm requires more time for field preparation because more tasks must be done with smaller, specialized equipment. He and his crew spend a fair amount of time modifying equipment for use in research.

Harkcom sees three major research paths in the farm’s future: exploration of new technologies related to precision agriculture, evaluation of biotechnologically altered

crops in comparison to traditional varieties, and continued exploration of tillage methods. Performance tests of new varieties will continue because this is one of the most direct ways the department’s research helps Pennsylvania farmers. Harkcom expects that research on the farm will become more integrated between the college’s various departments as interdisciplinary cooperation grows.

Harkcom is part of a department-wide effort to increase opportunities for public education at the farm. “Our primary goal on the farm is to educate the public, and when we get a good crowd of people here and it seems like they’re really interested, that’s very gratifying. We can do all the research in the world here, but if we don’t get that infor-

mation to the public, it’s not doing anybody any good. So I look forward to the opportunity to interact more with the public.

A committee is exploring the idea of a field day in the fall at which the public could come and learn, for instance, what goes into growing and harvesting a corn crop, how herbicides affect crop yield, and how different methods of tillage affect the population of microorganisms living in the soil.

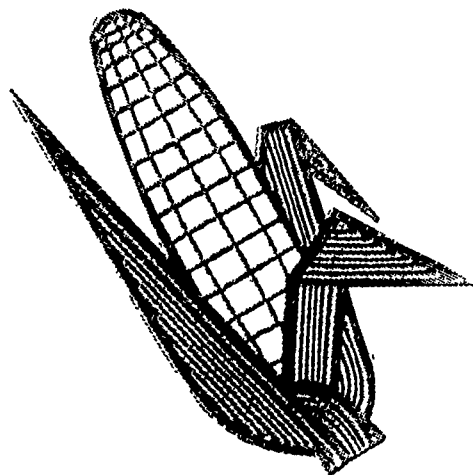
When Hoffman retired, the department decided to assign his research responsibilities to a new full-time faculty member. Sjoerd Duiker, assistant professor of soil management and applied soil physics, is taking over Hoffman’s long-term research on tillage and crop rotation at the farm and also developed

his own research program.

Harkcom believes that Hoffman’s research into no-till crop production has made the most impact of any research done in the department over the last few decades, because it drastically changed the way many farmers manage their lands, not only in Pennsylvania, but also in nearby states.

Harkcom has a master’s degree in agronomy from Penn State. His prior work experience includes crop scout, extension agent, and forage variety testing. “I enjoy my job because I love working outside and I hope that some of the research I’m involved with helps to provide answers to farmers’ problems.”

Harkcom can be reached at wsh1@psu.edu or (814) 692-7955.



## Heartland Farm and Family Resources

Complete line of fertilizers, macro and micronutrients available. Also seed treatments and inoculants, plant growth regulators and nitrogen stabilizer, crop chemical additives and much more.

Call for More Info.  
Dealer Inquiries Welcome  
Toll Free 1 (877) 381-0116

# AgriPro SEEDS

## 9696

Top Yield Performance Across Environments

- \* Top performing full-season hybrid over the last three years
- \* Excellent for Silage or Grain
- \* Exceptional stay green with excellent standability
- \* Handles early stress-cool, wet weather

**P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.**

Smoketown, PA PHONE 717-299-2571  
HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM -5:00 PM;  
Saturday 8:00 AM-12:00 Noon

AgriPro® is a Registered Trademark of AGRIPRO SEEDS, INC., P.O. Box 2962, Mission, KS 66201

## Hesston Forage Harvesters

## Model 7155S

It’s no big secret that whole-stalk corn silage produces 40 to 50% more digestible energy over corn harvested as grain.

The big secret is how economically and efficiently you can harvest it with a Hesston® 7155S Forage Harvester.

### More cutting power.

Designed for the average-sized livestock producer, this small machine packs a big punch. Its “straight-thru crop-flow” design puts more power into cutting, less into handling the crop. That means greater field efficiency year after year.

The 7155S easily handles tractor PTOs from 90 to

# The secret to low-cost forage harvesting.

175 hp, and is available with 2-row corn silage header or 6-foot-wide hay pickup.

### Fingertip control.

Electro-hydraulic remote control puts harvesting functions at your fingertips, and the 1,000 rpm drive assures big capacity.

This season, make silage more efficiently and economically — with a new Hesston 7155S. See us today.



### C.J. WONSIDLER BROS.

Finland Rd., Quakertown, PA  
215-536-1935 / 215-536-7523  
Rts 309 & 100, New Tripoli, PA  
610-767-7611  
570-648-2088

### D. W. OGG

Frederick, MD - 301-473-4250  
Westminster, MD - 410-848-4585

### ZIMMERMAN’S FARM SERVICE

School Road, Rt. 1, Bethel, Pa  
717-933-4114

### STANLEY’S FARM SERVICE

RD 1, Box 46, Klingertown, Pa  
570-648-2088

### UMBERGER’S OF FONTANA, INC.

RD 4, Box 545, Lebanon, Pa  
717-867-2613

### MARSHALL MACHINERY, INC.

Honesdale, PA  
570-729-7117

### HERNLEY’S FARM EQUIPMENT, INC.

2095 S Market St., Elizabethtown, Pa  
717-367-8867