

# Farmer Cooperative Directors Conference Jan. 13-15

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The "Farmer Cooperative Directors Conference" here Jan. 13-15 will offer cooperative directors an outstanding opportunity to focus on issues of interest to cooperative boards of directors and engage leading authorities in a discussion of timely issues.

Dr. Michael Cook, Professor of Cooperative Leadership, Graduate Institute of Co-op Leadership, University of Missouri, will "keynote" the conference with a discussion of "Advancements in Corporate and Cooperative Governance." He will discuss trends in corporate governance toward selecting board members for selected skills, the reasons for doing so, and approaches cooperative boards are taking to assure

they have or have access to individuals with essential skills.

The cooperative workshops will focus on issues that are cooperative specific — that is, relate to the functioning of the cooperative, the board, and the fiduciary responsibilities and duties of cooperative directors. The program is open to all directors. Relatively new members of boards of directors are encouraged to attend.

Participation in the "leadership forum" will be limited to the first 40 directors who register. Directors in or expected to assume key board leadership positions are encouraged to register. Dr. H. Chris Peterson, Michigan State University, will be forum facilitator.

The focus of the 2001 Leader-

ship Forum will be the future of cooperatives in the face of new technology and the restructuring of the food system. The session leaders are nationally and internationally in demand.

This year the Workshops and Forum Sessions begin Saturday, Jan. 13 and end Monday afternoon, Jan. 15.

The directors' reception and dinner Sunday evening, Jan. 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. PCT, follows the NCFC Education Foundation's golf benefit for cooperative education.

For more information, contact Thomas W. Little, vice president, education, at (202-626-8700) or [tlittle@ncfc.org](mailto:tlittle@ncfc.org).

## USDA To Review Some Pork Checkoff Referendum Ballots

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Agriculture announced recently that ballots cast in the pork checkoff referendum that were declared invalid will be reviewed to determine whether they can be counted as valid ballots.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices reported that, of the approximately 30,000 ballots cast, more than 2,000 ballots were declared invalid because certain required information was missing.

Such missing information on registration and certification forms included the person's address and the date the form was signed. The missing information was for administrative needs, in-

cluding identifying voters for challenge purposes.

FSA county offices are being directed to review the registration and certification forms for ballots previously determined to be invalid. Based on the new instructions, FSA county offices will count and report the results of their review. USDA expects to announce the results of the vote by the first week of January 2001.

The public may witness the review and counting of previously declared invalid ballots but may not interfere with the process. Not all counties in each state had invalid ballots, so interested persons should contact FSA county offices for information.

## Lancaster County Tobacco Show Jan. 3

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The 2001 Annual Lancaster County Tobacco Show will be Wednesday, Jan.

3 here at the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center.

The show will have classes for vocational agriculture students and for other tobacco growers.

Vocational agriculture students who have tobacco and would like to exhibit may enter their exhibits from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Other growers can enter their exhibits from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Judging will begin at 12:30 p.m. with results available at the completion.

Penn State Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County sponsors the program. The Lancaster Leaf Tobacco Board of Trade funds the program. All Lancaster County tobacco growers are encouraged to participate in the show.

The show will be conducted according to the following rules:

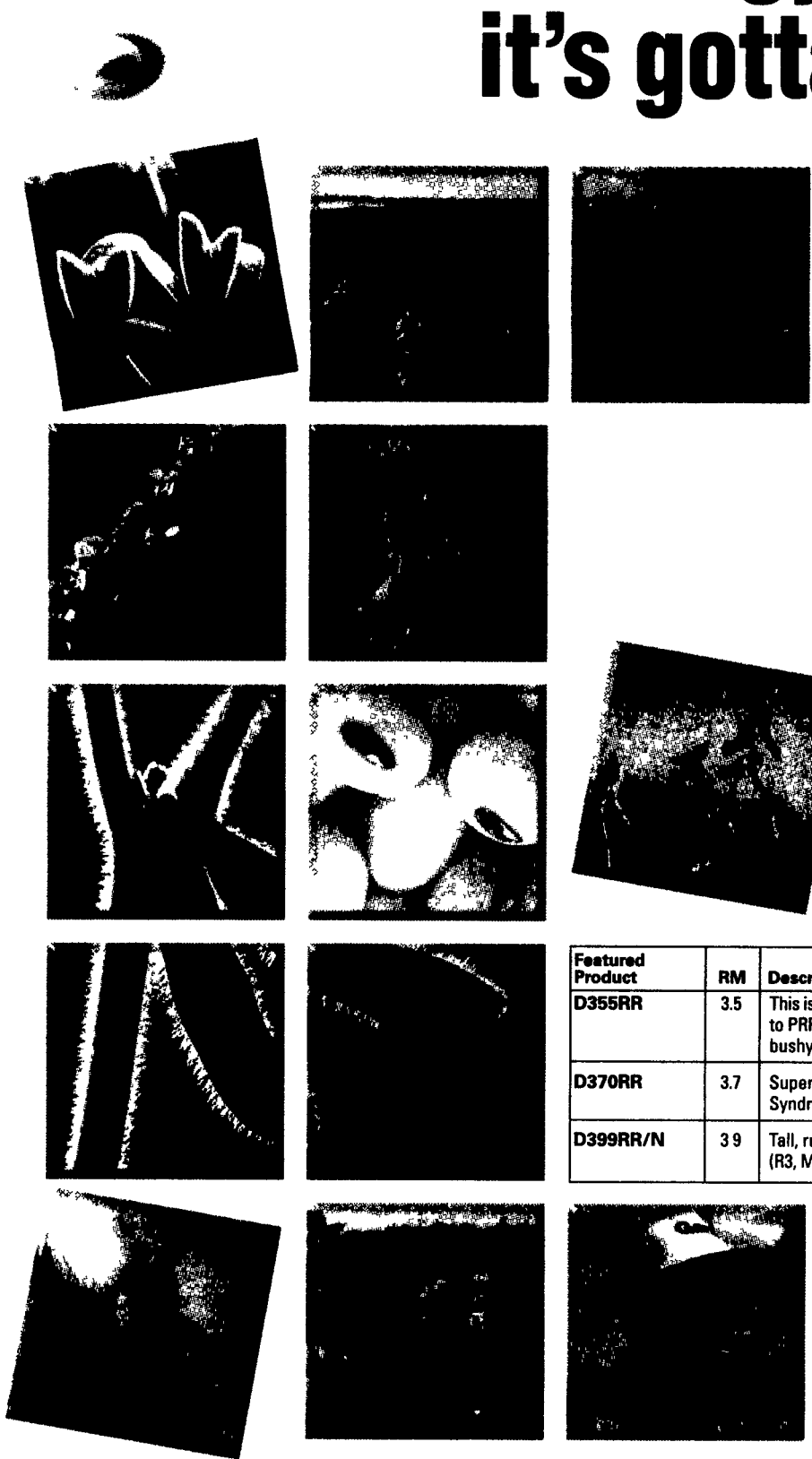
- Classes are the same as listed in the 2001 Pennsylvania Farm Show Catalogue, except each class will also have a Vo Ag class, which is restricted to vocational agriculture students. Entries should use the class number as listed followed by Vo Ag.

- Maryland-type tobacco will be exhibited as "Pennsylvania Grown Smoking."

- Every exhibit must have a completed Pennsylvania Farm Show entry form containing the following information — class number, class name, exhibitor's names, address, and the exhibitor's social security number.

Anyone who would like to enter an exhibit in the show and has questions should contact Bob Anderson, Lancaster County extension office, at (717) 394-6851.

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