

Pa. Leads Nation In Farmland Preservation

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Gov. Tom Ridge announced Pennsylvania is the nation's undisputed leader in farmland preservation by now having more acres preserved for agriculture than any other state.

The year 2000 ended a record-breaking year in farmland preservation for the Ridge Administration. Pennsylvania preserved 283 farms totaling 33,273 acres, the most farms ever preserved in one year.

Pennsylvania continues to preserve farmland at a pace faster than any other state in the nation, and the state is recognized for having the highest number of farms preserved nationally. In December, Pennsylvania reached the goal of preserving over 180,000 acres, the most acres preserved nationally.

"The commitment of the Ridge Administration helped Pennsylvania reach a milestone in farmland preservation. The 2000 Farm Show set the tone with the 100 Farms in 100 Days

initiative, followed by a summer campaign, and then a fall campaign of 100 Farms in 100 Days. Again, leading to the most farms preserved in one year. In December, Pennsylvania reached the goal of becoming the national leader in Farmland Preservation with the most total acres preserved. We are in sole possession of first place in America's farmland preservation league," said Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes.

At the 2000 Pennsylvania Farm Show, Gov. Ridge announced his goal of preserving 100 Farms in 100 Days as part of his "Growing Greener" program. Gov. Ridge's goal was reached when more than 100 farms were preserved by Earth Day, April 22, 2000. The summer campaign preserved 47 farms. And then, in the fall, Hayes called for a vigorous effort to the end of the year when a total of 135 farms were preserved during the "100 Farms...Again" campaign.

American Farmland Trust, a

national farmland conservation group, has recognized Pennsylvania as the national leader in farmland preservation. Pennsylvania is the recipient of the national achievement award for farmland preservation, recognizing the commonwealth for preserving the most farms and farmland acres in the nation.

Created in 1989, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board oversees the state Farmland Preservation Program, which allows the state and counties to purchase development rights, referred to as easements. These easements guarantee that farms will remain as agricultural land.

The Farmland Preservation Program continues to work toward preserving and protecting Pennsylvania's agricultural land for farm families and future generations of Pennsylvanians.

For more information on the Farmland Preservation Program, contact the Bureau of Farmland Preservation at (717) 783-3167.

Crop Workshops Strive For Improved Production, Profits

COLUMBUS, Ohio — February is a good month for Ohio farmers wanting more in-depth, hands-on information about current agronomic crop production practices and economics.

The Ohio State University Extension Agronomic Crops Team is conducting workshops across the state during February.

"We will talk about the complete life cycle of the plant and some management practices that can improve production and profitability," said Greg La Barge, agriculture and natural resources agent at the Fulton County office of Ohio State University Extension and coordinator of the Agronomic Crops Team.

The workshops focus on specific aspects of Ohio's agronomic industry. The workshop topics are soybean production and technology, corn production and management, weed management and identification, intensive wheat management, and soil fertility.

"We have a full complement of opportunities for growers this year," La Barge said.

All workshops require preregistration. The fee for each workshop varies from \$15 to \$35 and is included in the registration material.

For complete agenda details and registration information, those interested should contact the host Ohio State University Extension agent at the below telephone number for the workshop they wish to attend.

Corn Production,

USDA Announces New Launch Date For Mandatory Reporting Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA recently announced a new date for implementation of the livestock mandatory reporting program.

The effective date has been changed from Jan. 30 until April 2.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service made the decision to change the effective date to allow more time for testing the program's new electronic information collection system.

Once implemented, the program will require producers and other market participants to report information about the marketing of live cattle, swine, and lambs, and products of those livestock.

Management Workshops

• Tuesday, Feb. 13, Kalida, Putnam County. Host agent: Glen Arnold, (419) 523-6294.

• Wednesday, Feb. 14, Wilmington, Clinton County. Host agent: Tony Nye, (937) 382-0901.

• Thursday, Feb. 15, Dresden, Muskingum County. Host agent: Mark Mechling, (740) 454-0144.

Weed Management, Identification Workshops

• Tuesday, Feb. 20, Van Wert, Van Wert County. Host agent: Andy Kleinschmidt, (419) 238-1214.

• Wednesday, Feb. 21, Zanesfield, Logan County. Host agent: Tammy Dobbels, (937) 599-4227.

• Thursday, Feb. 22, Lancaster, Fairfield County. Host contact: Stan Smith, (740) 653-5419.

Intensive Wheat Management Workshops

• Monday, February 19, Bucyrus, Crawford County. Host agent: Steve Prochaska, (419) 562-8731.

• Tuesday, Feb. 20, Sidney, Shelby County. Host agent: Roger Bender, (937) 498-7239.

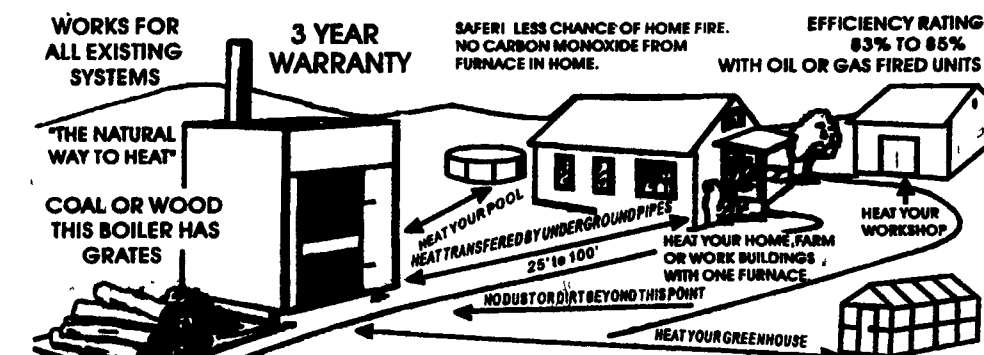
• Thursday, Feb. 22, Bryan, Williams County. Host agent: Florian Chirra, (419) 636-5608.

Soil Fertility Workshops

• Wednesday, Feb. 21, Waldo, Marion County. Host agent: Bill Hudson, (740) 387-2260.

• Thursday, Feb. 22, Greenville, Darke County. Host agent: Dennis Baker, (937) 548-5215.

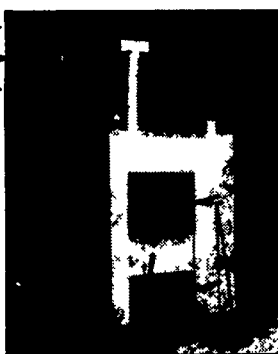
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FREE Information Meeting

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