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a.m.-3 p.m.
 Soil Fertility and Productivity Workshop, Franklin County extension office, Chambersburg, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., also Cumberland County extension, Carlisle, on March 16; March 23 Lebanon County extension, Lebanon; and March 29, York 4-H Center, Bair.
 Innovative Ways For Dairy Farmers To Make and Save A Buck, Williamsfield Community Center, Ashtabula County, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and Country Kitchen, Alliance, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Western Pa. Potato and Vegetable Meeting, Garden Gate Restaurant, Prospect, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Chester County Holstein Club Tour to Somerset County, Sam Stoltzfus Farm, Parkersburg, 7:15 a.m., (610) 495-7929, or (610) 998-0672, or (610) 857-2780.
 Cumberland County Dairy Day, Penn Township Fire Hall, Huntsdale, 9 a.m., (717) 240-6500.
 North Central Agricultural Risk Management For Dairy Operators, Walker Township Building, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. "Passing On The Farm," Gap Diner, 9:30 a.m., (717) 664-7077.
Friday, March 16
 Maryland State Holstein Convention, Four Points Sheraton, Hagerstown, Md., thru March 17
 Hoof Balance Clinic for Professionals, Willowbrook Farm.
 Snyder County Holstein Associ-

ation annual meeting, Middleburg Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
 4-H Teen Retreat, Hartman Center, Milroy, 7 p.m., thru March 18.
 Mid-Atlantic Fruit Plant Growth Regulator School, Adams County Ag and Natural Resources Center, Gettysburg.
 Tractor Safety Training, Lehigh County Ag Center, Allentown, 7 p.m.
 Officer Training, Dauphin County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 6:30 p.m.
 Crop and Forage Day, Wayne County, Wayne County Visitors' Center, Honesdale, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., (570) 253-5970, ext. 239.
Saturday, March 17
 Hoof Care Clinic For Owners, Holiday Inn, Phillipsburg, N.J.
 Farm Family Appreciation Day, Hamburg Field House, 7 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
 Maintaining the Sound and User-Friendly Performance Horse, Inn at Towamencin, Best Western, Kulpville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Penn State Gardener Symposium, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.
 Woody ornamental pesticide update, The Chadwick, Wexford, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
 Regional Christmas Tree Seminar, Rustic Lodge, Indiana, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Backyard Compost Workshop, extension office, Towanda, 9 a.m.-noon.
 Equine Expo, Diamond 7 Ranch, Dillsburg, 9 a.m.

USDA's Forest Service Hiring 3,500 New Firefighters

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In response to the severe fire season of 2000 and recent legislation signed by President Clinton, the USDA's Forest Service will hire approximately 3,500 new firefighters.

"In the wake of this summers devastating fire season, we are adding significant new staffing to improve our nations wildland fire suppression capabilities and to reduce fire hazards near populated areas," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

The new positions will support the National Fire Plan, which was developed by the secretaries of agriculture and interior. The plan outlines actions

for restoring the landscapes and helping communities affected by this year's severe fires, reducing future impacts of wildland fires in the wildland-urban interface, and ensuring sufficient firefighting resources in the future.

Up to 1,000 of the positions will be permanent. The other jobs will be temporary or seasonal, lasting up to six months per year, with opportunities to become permanent seasonal employees. Most of the 3,500 jobs will be forestry aids and technician jobs assigned to firefighting positions. The deadline for applications has been extended to Jan. 19, 2001.

More than 84,000 fires broke out across the nation this

summer, consuming about 7 million acres of public lands. At the height of the fire season, more than 28,000 people were deployed to combat the flames. Federal personnel and others from 48 states, four countries, and five military battalions battled the fires.

Applications and additional information regarding the new firefighting jobs are available on the Web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs>. Individuals can request applications via an automated, toll-free telephone number, (877) 813-3476; by e-mail to fsjobs@fs.fed.us; or by visiting their local Forest Service office.

Farmers Union Asks Congress To Bolster Successful Conservation Policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — IN a hearing recently before the Senate Agriculture Committee, National Farmers Union (NFU) Vice President for Government Relations Tom Buis told senators that agriculture-based conservation programs are, for the most part, sound policy.

While these programs are good for family farmers and ranchers, as well as rural communities, Congress needs to work at providing a level of funding that will sustain long-term success for these initiatives and more directly target compensation to family-sized operations, he told the panel.

In addition, Congress needs to implement new initiatives to address additional conservation and environmental concerns in rural America.

"Our current conservation programs have, more than at any other time, helped preserve

America's soil resources, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve the quality of both the air and water," said Buis. "While they have done right by the land, we must also make sure that they do right by our family farmer and rancher. We must aggressively pursue incentives to preserve our resources. We must also ensure assistance for family-sized farms and ranches, not unneeded subsidies to large, integrated operations."

Farmers Union also supports incentives and technical assistance to encourage implementation of carbon sequestration programs to address growing problems associated with greenhouse gases. Lastly, an intermediate-term soil rehabilitation program to restore cropland recently decimated by weather, disease, or pests should be considered.

The family farmer and rancher organization also supports a number of priorities that will help maintain and improve existing conservation initiatives at the federal level. They include raising the cap on total enrollment for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to at least 40 million acres, reducing the emphasis on whole-farm CRP enrollments, expanding the Wetlands Reserve Program, adding funding to the Farmland Protection Program to protect farmland from development, include endangered species habitats as a priority in the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, increase funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and ensure sufficient resources for Conservation Technical Assistance for farmers wanting to adopt sound conservation practices.

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