

DOE Schedules Ethanol Workshops In Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced two workshops on ethanol fuel will be held in Pennsylvania during the last week in August. Jeff Graef, Program Administrator for the Western Regional Biomass Energy Program stated the workshops will focus on the agricultural sector and will explore how Pennsylvania farmers and agricultural businesses can profit from establishing ethanol plants in the state.

Target audience for the workshops includes farmers, ranchers, ag organizations, agencies that serve agriculture and businesses that support rural communities. Others who are urged to participate include Rural Economic Development groups, bankers, local government officials, farmer owned cooperatives, county RC&D groups, and state and local environmental agencies.

The workshops are scheduled for Tues., Aug. 28 in Cranberry, north of Pittsburgh, and Thurs., Aug. 30, at Grantville, east of Harrisburg. The agenda is being developed and will be distributed

through the media and the farm organization newsletters. Watch the Website at www.ethanolmt.org for information.

Many crops can be used to produce ethanol. The workshop will feature speakers on producing ethanol from grain and other commodities such as cellulose from crop residues and forestry waste. Speakers will explain how valuable co-products can increase the viability of an ethanol plant. Others will cover the marketing of ethanol and the distillers grains co-products.

Ethanol Producers And Consumers (EPAC) a national non profit organization involved in education and promotion about ethanol, is in charge of the logistics for the meeting. EPAC, with members in 26 states and three countries, has conducted numerous workshops and conferences since they were organized ten years ago.

A workshop planning meeting was held in Harrisburg in March, with Pennsylvania farm organizations and other groups. The attendees included Dave Stettler and Larry Breech with PA Farm-

ers Union, Charles Dull, with PA Farm Bureau, Bill Steel, with PA Grange, and Carol Ann Gregg with the American AgriWomen.

Others who attended the steering meeting and will help with planning are Gerald Ely, USDA Rural Development, Dick Poorbaugh, Penn State Cooperative Business Education and Re-

search Program, MaryAnne Daniel, Pennsylvania office of the US Department of Energy, Bob Moreau, of USDA Ag Research Service, and David Bingham, PA Dept. of Agriculture.

The DOE Regional Biomass Program was represented by Ann Hegnauer, Washington, DC, Rick Handley, New York, and

Jeff Graef, Nebraska. EPAC was represented by Shirley Ball, Nashua, MT, Executive Director of the organization.

For further information about the workshop or to register call EPAC at (406) 785-3722, the PDA at (717) 772-5208 or email to shirley@ethanolmt.org.

Farmers Union Calls For Trade Policy That Keeps Family Farmers Competitive

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In testimony before the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, National Farmers Union (NFU) President Leland Swenson told panel members that Congress must pursue agriculture trade policy that improves family farm income and demand for U.S. commodities.

Swenson also called on Congress to address the impacts of exchange rates on trade, bolster trade pact compliance, reform trade dispute resolution processes, and ensure compatible labor and environmental standards for other competing nations.

"Farmers Union recognizes the importance of trade to America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities," Swenson said. "However, as we pursue agriculture policy, we must examine the impact initiatives have on farm income and future economic opportunity."

Farmers Unions primary trade policy objectives include 1) strengthening our capacity to monitor compliance, particularly in the case of new agreements or the expansion of agreements to additional countries; 2) reforming the dispute resolution process in both the WTO and regional agreements; and 3) ensuring that

comparable health, safety, labor and environmental standards that apply to U.S. producers are implemented and enforced by our trading partners.

Other components of agricultural trade policy should include resolving the trade-distorting effects of exchange rate fluctuation, long term domestic and global food security, marketing to countries opposing genetically modified crops, strengthening enforcement of antidumping and tariff regulations, especially with regard to milk protein concentrate, and maintaining the U.S. commitment to international food aid, specifically the international school lunch program.

Pasture, Grazing, Livestock Direct Marketing Meetings Set

MIFFLINBURG (Union Co.) — Penn State Cooperative Extension in the Central Susquehanna Valley Area has scheduled the first in a series of on-farm meeting focusing on pasture and grazing management and direct marketing of farm commodities. The meetings are open to all interested individuals.

The first meeting will be Tuesday, May 8, at 7 p.m., at the farm of Bill Callahan of Mifflinburg in Union County. Callahan raises cattle, broilers, and laying hens. He direct-markets most of the

farm's production. He has been involved at the local level with efforts to further the direct marketing of farm products in the region.

Directions to the farm: take Centennial Road off of Rt. 192 west of Forest Hill. Follow this road for 0.8 mile and take the lane to the left. There will be a meeting sign at the end of the lane.

For more information, call Dave Hartman, extension agent at (800) 254-6470.

Highlights From Mid-West Animal Science Meetings

Pigs consume less water from a wet-dry feeder compared to those on conventional feeders or wet-dry feeders used as a dry feeder. The wet-dry feeder has a nipple waterer mounted in the trough.

In the first experiment, pigs gained nearly seven percent faster on the wet-dry feeder and consumed 23 percent less water. No differences in digestibility, or the incidence of ulcers were found among the different feeding systems.

In the second experiment, no differences were observed in

growth rate, but pigs on the wet-dry feeders gained more efficiently and consumed 58 percent less water.

Growth performance is similar in pigs grouped 10, 20, 40, or 80 animals per pen. Growth rate and feed intake dropped only slightly as group size increased, but the values were not statistically different.

Furthermore, there were no differences in injuries or disease among the various group sizes. The research indicates that pigs may perform normally in large group sizes, as long as floor space and feeder access are increased proportionately.

The phosphorus contained in both corn and soybeans is relatively unavailable, because it is in the form of phytate.

New low phytate of corn and soybean varieties, which will be commercially available in three to five years, have similar amounts of total phosphorus, but the availability of phosphorus is much higher.

In fact, pigs fed diets formulated with low-phytate corn, low phytate soybean meal, and no supplemental phosphorus have normal growth performance and bone strength. In addition, phosphorus excretion is reduced by more than 50 percent.

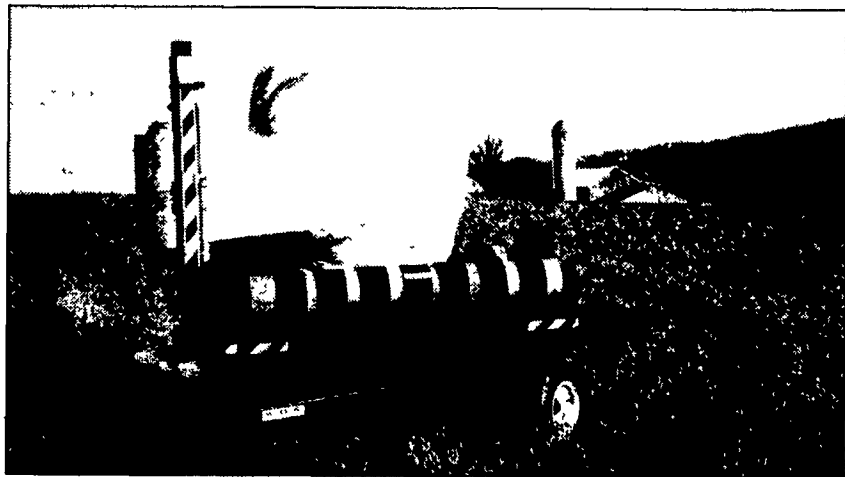
This technology shows promise for the emerging concern regarding elevated phosphate concentrations found in soils subjected to repeated manure application.

*Kenneth B. Kephart
Penn State Extension*

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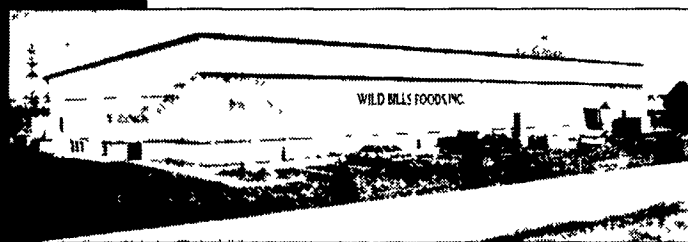
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