

Fuel Studies

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Myers pointed out the increasing use of biodiesel across the nation.

According to a recent edition of "Soybean Digest," diesel-powered vehicles require "little or no engine modification" in order to burn biodiesel. The article says the fuel was beginning to be sold to the public in California and Nevada and used in USDA truck fleets across the country.

A Penn State Cooperative Extension publication from York County warns of the adverse effect on engines of crude soybean oil in a diesel blend (soy diesel).

Soybean oil must go through an extensive purification process before it is safe to use as a fuel, the report noted.

Meanwhile, Penn State's State's Energy Institute is conducting research on ways to use filtered and clarified crude soy-

bean oil as a diesel fuel supplement.

According to the extension article, biodiesel could be produced for about \$1.75 per gallon if a by-product of the process, glycerol, could be marketed.

However, "large capital costs" are involved in getting a biodiesel processing facility started, the article noted.

The feasibility of ethanol and/or biodiesel facilities in the area depends on the commitment of a large number of crop growers, according to proponents.

According to 1997 USDA census statistics, the nine-county REDDI area in southeastern Pennsylvania grew 383,746 acres of corn for grain and 176,983 acres of soybeans.

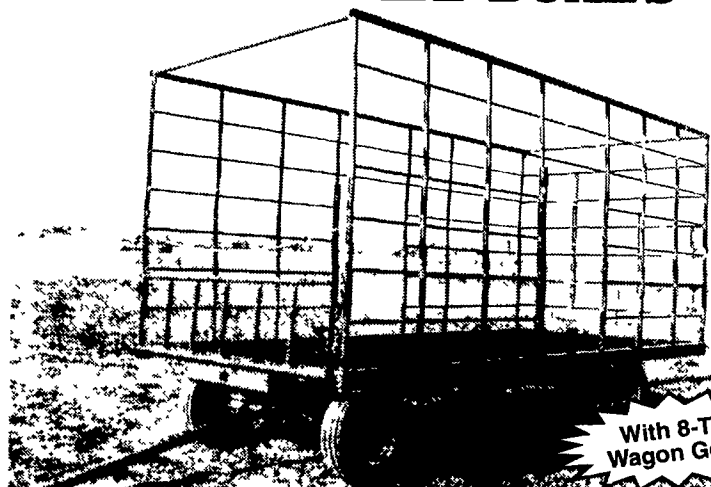
Welsh said a proposed ethanol facility would be targeted to produce about 20 million gallons of ethanol per year — requiring about eight million bushels of corn.

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Ag Secretary Leads Trade

(Continued from Page A42)

tion said, "I participate in Department of Agriculture trade missions to build relationships with prospective buyers in Mexico. You can't do that by e-mail or fax."

Wenger Farm Machinery is also interested in the export of agriculture equipment due to PDA's initiative to have Pennsylvania agri-business enter the international arena.

St. Joseph University had the opportunity to establish food marketing collaboration with colleges in Mexico.

One of Pennsylvania's leading food companies on the domestic front is TastyKake of Philadelphia. The company is now ex-

company is now exploring the Mexican market as a result of trade mission business meetings arranged by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Rodale Institute has an active food education program which the Pennsylvania-based institute wants

to "export" to Mexico. As part of the trade mission, the Pennsylvania Department of

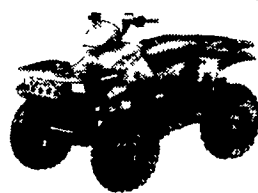
Agriculture initiated food education pilot projects for Rodale Institute at two elementary schools, one in the State of Mexico and the other in the State of Queretaro.

Dr. Neil Vincent, vice president for academic affairs at Delaware Valley College, said, "We are excited and pleased to affirm Delaware Valley College's interest in the Export for Scholars program initiated by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Student involvement in purchasing, breeding, and raising of dairy heifers for export to

Mexico provides them with critical and invaluable international experience."

Saul High School Principal Thomas Scott summarized this year's trade mission well when he said, "The training our FFA students went through prepared them for the real world as much as any single program in their high school careers. The goals of the program were clear and readily understood. And the cultural aspect enlarged their universe. Export for Scholars is a life-changing experience."

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