

Extension Announces Cambria County Crops Day

EBENSBURG (Cambria Co.) — Cambria County Crops Day will be conducted Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the extension office in Ebensburg. The program is being sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and Hines Equipment.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 2:30 p.m. Tentatively, two Core and two Category 1 pesticide applicator credits will be available.

Cost to attend is \$5.00 per person and includes lunch. Pre-registration is required by Feb-

ruary 24 to insure adequate materials and meals. To sign up for the meeting call the Extension office at (814) 472-7986. Payment can be made at the Extension office, or mail a check payable to Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 390, Ebensburg, PA 15931. Persons who do not call ahead to sign up for the meeting will be charged \$10.00 at the door. For more information please call the Cambria Co. Extension office.

Many interesting topics will be presented including: soil

compaction, cover crops, pesticide resistant weeds, using the Agronomy Guide, Farm Bill update, and a discussion on nutrient management.

Speakers will include Melanie Barkley, Bedford Co. agronomy extension agent; Sjoerd Duiker, Penn State assistant professor of soil management; Tom Zundel, Blair Co. agronomy extension agent; Lou Kopczyk, Cambria Co. conservation district; Don Saber, Pa. Dept. of Agriculture; and Callista Little, Farm Service Agency.

Pork Bowl Announces Public Speaking Winners



At the recent Pork Bowl, conducted in Grantville, 14 students competed in the public speaking contest. Pictured are, from left, Dr. John Roberts, judge; Sarah Hemminger, Somerset County, junior winner; Liz Kuebler, Berks County, intermediate winner; and Amber Shollenberger, Berks County, senior winner.

Participation In Ag Census Encouraged

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Recently acting Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff urged all Pennsylvania farmers, growers, and agribusinesses to participate in the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

The February 3 deadline has passed and a large number of Pennsylvania farmers, growers, and agribusinesses have returned their forms to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). However, there are still some census forms outstanding.

"Pennsylvania's agricultural community has a critical stake in this census of agriculture," stated Acting Secretary Wolff. "All of agriculture, whether a large dairy farm in Bradford County or a vegetable farm in Lancaster County, is critical to showing the importance and contribution of our farmers, understanding

structural changes, and knowing how to meet the changing needs of our 21st Century agriculture industry." In December 2002, over 91,000 agriculture census forms were sent out across Pennsylvania.

Secretary Wolff noted that Pennsylvania ranks in the top ten states in response to the 2002 Census of Agriculture. However, to develop an accurate picture of Pennsylvania agriculture, it is vital that all farmers and growers who have not already returned their census forms take the time to submit them.

An accurate report of farm operations in Pennsylvania helps to formulate a complete, detailed picture of agriculture in Pennsylvania and the nation.

This is the 26th Census of Agriculture conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in conjunction with the

Agricultural Statistics Service. Snapshots of U.S. Agriculture dating back to 1840 continue to be a valuable resource to farmers, growers, farm organizations, agribusiness, farm media, as well as county, state, and federal government.

By law, data provided by individual farms is held in strictest confidence.

No information will be disclosed about any individual operation.

For assistance in the completion of the census, a help line has been established at 1-888-4AG-STAT.

To learn more about the 2002 Census of Agriculture contact the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service at 717-787-3307 or visit the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service homepage through the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us PA Keyword "agriculture."

Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees

NEBRASKA CITY (NE) — Ten free Colorado blue spruce trees will be given to each person who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during February 2003.

The trees are part of the nonprofit foundation's Trees for America campaign.

Colorado blue spruces have silver blue-green color and a compact conical shape. They can be used as individual ornamentals, an energy-saving windbreak, a privacy screen, or as living Christmas trees.

The trees will be shipped post-paid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be

replaced free of charge.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 28.



Greenhouse, Landscape School Scheduled

SAYRE (Bradford Co.) — Penn State Cooperative Extension in Bradford County will host a Greenhouse and Landscape School on February 26 at the Patterson Building at Guthrie Square in Sayre PA. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be concurrent sessions for both greenhouse growers and landscapers. Landscapers can learn which insect and mite problems that they can expect for 2003 here in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Greg Hoover, extension entomologist from Penn State, will speak to landscapers about insects and insect control. Also on the morning program will be Lee Nelson to speak on perennials in

the landscape.

In the afternoon landscapers will be able to learn tips to help them more effectively prune trees and shrubs. Penn State urban forester Vinnie Cotrone will lead this workshop.

Al Scala, a consultant with Penn State Seed Company will speak to greenhouse growers. Scala has more than 40 years of experience in the industry and will speak to growers on "Tips for Successful Greenhouse Management." Also on the program for greenhouse growers will be Penn State entomologist Greg Hoover, speaking about beneficial insects and their place in controlling pests in the greenhouse.

In the afternoon Lee Nelson will speak to greenhouse growers on perennials and their selection, care in the greenhouse and point of purchase tips.

The cost for the program will be \$25 which includes a hot lunch.


Pesticide credits will be offered for this program: two core pesticide points for categories 1, 6, 18, 22, and 23.

A complete program and sign up form can be obtained by calling the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office at (570) 265-2896. Registrations are due by February 17, 2003. If you have any questions about the program ask for Tom Maloney.

Fruit Growers' Meeting

BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — There's still time to register for The Appalachian Fruit Growers' meeting that will be conducted on Thursday, February 27, at the Arena Restaurant in Bedford from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration fee is \$20 per person. Pre-registration is encouraged. Two core and six category credits will be awarded to licensed pesticide applicators at the completion of the day's program. For additional information or to register, contact the Blair County Extension Office at (814) 940-5989.



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