

**FARM CALENDAR**

(Continued from Page A10)

York County Extension Office, 12-week course, 6:30 p.m., (717) 840-7408.

Private Pesticide Applicators' Certification Training Session, Extension Office, Room 7, Cecil County Courthouse, Elkton, Md., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., (410) 996-5280.

Tuesday, December 2

Chesapeake Fields Annual Meeting, Black-eyed Susan, Chestertown, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m., (410) 810-2081.

Wednesday, December 3

ADADC N.Y. District Meeting, Strawberry Fields Cafe, Chaffee, N.Y., noon, (716) 492-3659.

Ag Engineering Workshop for Ag Professionals by Penn State Extension, Best Western, Sayre, thru Dec. 4, (717) 840-7408.

Custom Operators' Workshop, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., (610)378-1327.

Milk Marketing Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Public Hearing, Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, (717) 787-4194.

Pa. Christmas and Gift Show, Farm Show Complex, thru Dec. 7, Harrisburg, (717) 233-5100.

Thursday, December 4

Maryland Pasture Walk, West-

ern Maryland Research and Education Center, Keedyville, Md.

Future of Our Food and Farms Summit, Wilmington Wyndham Hotel, Delaware, thru Dec. 5.

South Jersey Landscape Conference, Masso's Crystal Manor, Glassboro, N.J., 9:15 a.m., (609) 291-7070.

Friday, December 5

Pa. 4-H State Leadership Conference, Ramada Inn, State College, thru Dec. 5.

Saturday, December 6

Stallion Season, Sporting Art Auction, Gala Cocktail Party and Dinner, Candyland Farm, 1343 Bohemia Road, Middletown, Del., 6 p.m., (302) 378-7192.

Managing Woodlands for Recreation Purposes, Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vt., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., (802) 656-0037.

Meat Goat Producers Health Conference, Tioga County Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., (570) 724-9120.

Sunday, December 7

National Conference on Grazing Lands, Nashville, Tenn. Convention Center, thru Dec. 10.

A Gathering Christmas, Gemberling-Rex House, Schaeffers-town, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Maryland Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Carousal Resort Hotel, thru Dec. 10, (410) 922-3426.

**State Completes Surveillance**

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson, Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, and Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff recently announced that the state has completed its West Nile surveillance efforts for 2003.

"With the recent frosts that have taken place across the state, mosquito activity has dropped off," Dr. Johnson said. "With little or no mosquito activity, the threat of human infection from West Nile virus is much lower."

"The county West Nile coordinators were tremendous in helping us track the virus and find mosquitoes this summer," McGinty said. "Working with our county partners, we developed a better understanding of where mosquitoes breed and where we need to target our control efforts in the coming years."

"Our thanks also go to horse breeders and other horse operations for their vigilance and help during this past year," Secretary Wolff said. "They, too, were integral in helping us to identify mosquito-breeding sites. The West Nile virus situation could have been far worse without the collective awareness of these people."

West Nile virus, when transmitted to people, can cause West Nile fever or encephalitis. Anyone can get the virus, but older adults and people with compromised immune systems have the highest risk of developing severe illness because their bodies have a harder time fighting off disease.

As of Nov. 3, 221 Pennsylvanians have tested positive for West Nile virus exposure this year. Seven have died. Last year, 62 cases of human West Nile virus were detected in Pennsylvania, resulting in nine fatalities.

Human West Nile testing will continue to be provided by the Department of Health during the winter months.

**Dig-In-The-Dirt Field Day A Success**



Field day attendees listen in on the benefits of the Quadtrac-pan combo from Case-IH representatives.

MT. PLEASANT, Del. — Hooper Inc. recently hosted a "Dig-In-The-Dirt" field day featuring the latest innovations in dirt moving equipment.

Contractors and excavators were given an opportunity to ride and drive Case-IH STX Steiger tractors, pulling scraper pans from manufacturers such as Reynolds and Ashland.

Charlie Hooper, president of Hooper Inc., showed customers the benefits of the Steiger-pan combination.

"With the innovations these companies are making in the dirt moving business, we're really able to deliver high-quality products that are more efficient and productive when it comes to moving dirt."

Case-IH tractors have always been popular performers on agricultural acreage around the world. Now these reliable machines are finding more work in land-leveling and commercial scraper markets as well. Special

scraper versions of STX Steiger tractors are available from 325 to 450 PTO Horsepower. With sturdy axles, built-in-weight, and an efficient powerplant under the forward-sloped hood, these units are ideal for scraper work.

One STX Steiger model called the Quadtrac has tracks instead of wheels, combining traction and flotation in one package and enabling you to work in conditions that are normally too wet for conventional pans. As one veteran 28-year pan operator put it, "Once I started running the Quadtrac, it didn't take me long to know this machine was going to help me do my job better. It's much faster than other pans and it loads twice as fast."

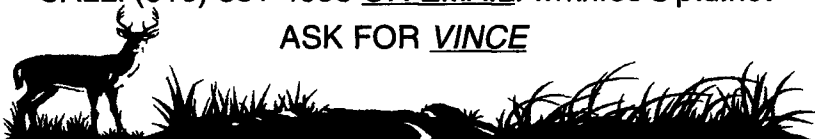
Some of the other equipment at the field day included Kubota excavators and tractor-loader-backhoes, Grouser front-mount construction blades, Manitou telehandlers, Spectra Precision laser leveling systems, and a Teagle big bale chopper.

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