December 19, 2003

TO: Area Farmers

FROM: Derby Walker, Extension Agent, Agriculture
       Tracy Wootten, Extension Agent, Horticulture

SUBJECT: February 2004 Meetings of Special Interest

I want to invite you and your family to participate in Agronomy and Equipment Day (February 4 & 5) and the Women in Agricultural Conference (February 6 & 7). I have included a copy of both programs.

The 3rd Annual Women’s Conference in Agriculture has an advance registration form which needs to be mailed back by January 15. Seating is limited for this three state meeting hosted by Delaware, which is being held at the Dover Downs Hotel.

The Agronomy and Equipment days February 4th day program features topics dealing with corn and soybeans and equipment relating to those crops. There are topics on irrigation, drainage equipment, weed control and nutrient management. There will be pesticide credits and maybe nutrient management credits awarded. There may be a charge for lunch.

February 4th evening program is designed to help meet the needs of small or part-time hay and forage producers including hay equipment.

February 5th is our forage day. We have brought in hay experts to discuss hay species, field drying of hay (a major problem in 2003), hay quality and hay problems. If you are growing forages or considering getting into forages, this is the program for you.

It is still not too late to pull and send off a soybean cyst nematode sample. Since it was not droughty this year, stunted soybeans on high ground should be tested for the presence of cysts. The samples that have come back to me have had cyst counts between 1200 and 4000 cyst eggs per sample. These are economic damaging levels, if you had planted cyst resistant beans then you probably have race shift. To reduce cyst count below economic levels you need to plant a non-host crop. If you are going back to soybeans within three years, you need to plant a soybean with a different resistant package. Most likely that means planting a Non-
Roundup Ready soybean with resistances to at least Race 1 and 3. To determine if your new program is working, another cyst test should be taken following the next soybean crop.

** Horticulture industry Expo & Pesticide Conference will be held on January 14 & 15 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. If you would like a copy of the program please call.**

911 addresses – If you now have your 911 address please, let us know so we can correct your address. The post office will not forward our mail to you without the correct 911 address.