

the Practical Farmer

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REGIONAL MEETINGS HELD

Southwest district director Ron Rosmann has sent out a newsletter, a news release to the local media, and a questionnaire on the interests of district members.

Northwest district director Gary D'Agrosa led a meeting in Boyden, Iowa, on April 14. Members met to share ideas, discuss publicity for PFI, preview statewide summer meetings, plan for field days and workshops, and to organize an advisory committee. Those attending also viewed a slide presentation of the Thompson farm.

Southeast district director David Heacock led a meeting on April 19. Members discussed financing the district expenses for publicity and for district speakers and tours. Members showed interest in organic production of fruit and vegetables as a means of crop diversification.

Members in this district plan to meet at the Natural Foods Associates meeting, August 16, in Dubuque. The NEA meeting will last from 9-5 and will feature Milt Bijack on water quality, Dale Grundale on soil fertility, Kent Whealey from Seed Savers Club, a talk on vegetables, and a Jackson County ASCS man on soil types.

At the April 19 meeting Gordon

Secret described his use of hairy vetch and of a rotovator. Bob Pierce said he found that ag lime and Pepto Bismol can solve the problem of scours in pigs. These members in southeast Iowa are also looking for more information on diatomaceous earth as a natural wormer and insecticide.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Some members have expressed an interest in studying the marketing of natural and organic beef. The board of directors for PFI recently received a request from a possible buyer to survey the members on their interest in supplying these products.

This request brought up the question of mailing lists. The board decided it will review mailing requests from non-members on a case-by-case basis, but that PFI would do any mailing itself and will charge for our office and mailing expenses. The board will not give away your names and addresses or sell them. PFI made this decision to protect members from random mailings, and at the same time to act as a link between our members and companies or individuals who can benefit them.

SUMMER MEETINGS

Members should by now have received summer meeting

registration materials in the mail. These meetings will all begin at 8:30 am and end at 4:30 pm on July 8 in Denison, on July 9 in Waverly, and on July 10 in Iowa City.

Richard Ness of the Small Farm Resources Project, Center for Rural Affairs in Nebraska will talk on "Cost Control and Profitability."

Dick and Sharon Thompson, from a farm near Boone, will speak on "New Experience in Soil Fertility." Dr. Regis Voss, an extension agronomist at Iowa State University, will talk on "Saving Money on Fertilizer."

Rick Exner, a graduate student in agronomy at ISU, and Richard Ness will talk about "Cover Crops and Interseeding." Martin Culik, a soils and crop agent for the University of Wisconsin Extension Service, will talk on "Conversion, Rotation, and the Use of Small Grains." We are also trying to arrange a speaker to talk about

marketing of organic crops.

Members should recruit friends to come along with them to these meetings. We all look forward to another exciting and informative series of meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence to the PFI addresses is always welcome.

District 1 (Northwest) Gary D'Agrosa, Box 212, Boyden, 51234. 712-725-2175.

District 2 (North Central) Dick Thompson, RR 2, Box 132, Boone, 50036. 515-432-1560.

District 3 (Northeast) Jim Hawkins, Rt. 1, Box 22, Ossian, 52161. 319-532-9636.

District 4 (Southwest) Ron Rosmann, Rt. 1, Box 177, Harlan, 51537. 712-627-4653.

District 5 (Southeast) David Heacock, Rt. 1, Box 161, Bellevue, 52031. 319-872-5939.

Practical Farmers of Iowa

Rt. 1 • Box 16 • Kelley • Iowa 50134

