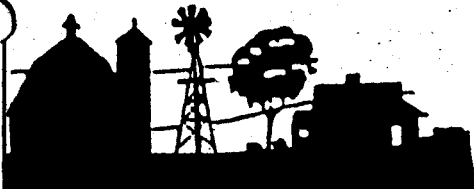


FARM and HOME POLLUTION PREVENTION U.P.D.A.T.E



NEWS ABOUT FARM*A*SYST AND HOME*A*SYST PROGRAMS

December 1997/January 1998

Australians using Farm*A*Syst adaptation

Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst's national director, Gary Jackson, and Ontario Environmental Farm Plan's Jeff Wilson recently traveled 'Down Under' to assist as Australian cotton growers begin pilot testing a version of Farm*A*Syst. *A Best Management Practices Manual for Australian Cotton Growers* is a collaborative effort between the Australian Cotton Growers Research and Development Association (ACGRA, a growers association) and the Australian Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC, which is funded by a compulsory levy on cotton growers, matched dollar for dollar by federal government funds).

Jackson and Wilson's host, Allan Williams, is the executive director of ACGRA, while Peta Slack-Smith is the projects officer for CRDC.

Jackson and Wilson helped to conduct a workshop with 70



*From left to right, Allan Williams, executive officer, Australian Cotton Growers Research Association, talks with Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst National Director Gary Jackson and David Anthony, president of the research association.*

cotton farmers from local chapters of the cotton growers associations. All of the 63 surveys returned at the end of the workshop said the program was worthwhile and should proceed. The two North Americans then helped to set up

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States take advantage of EQIP monies

Several states have incorporated the use of Farm*A*Syst in the education portion of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) EQIP program (Environmental Quality Incentive Program). In Nebraska, Farm*A*Syst State Coordinator DeLynn Hay is co-chair of the state's NRCS Technical Committee's EQIP subcommittee.

"I've been involved in priority ranking of projects and in developing a strategic plan for EQIP education. Out of seven local Extension agreements that have been signed, two will use Farm*A*Syst," Hay says. "Right now we are just waiting for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finish reviewing our materials. Once we get the

materials, we will do in-service training. Most of the activity will start after the first of the year."

Also starting in January, anyone applying for funds in Georgia that pertain to wellhead protection (well testing, well curbing, etc.) must complete a Farm*A*Syst program evaluation after going through the assessment process.

"They have to show the evaluation, not the assessment, so that it's kept confidential," says Lisa Ann Kelley, Georgia Farm*A*Syst. "We're hoping the NRCS State Technical Committee will also approve that anyone requesting funding for a pesticide mixing facility must complete the

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ASAE Blue Ribbon for Home*A*Syst

*Home*A*Syst: An Environmental Risk-Assessment Guide for the Home* has received a Blue Ribbon Award from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) in its 1997 Educational Aids Competition.

Authors Elaine Andrews, Ray Bosmans, Richard Castelnovo, Carl DuPoldt, Karen Filchak, Carolyn Johnson, Barbara Kneen Avery, Lori S. Marsh, Alyson McCann, Bill McGowan, Shirley Niemeyer, Kathleen Parrot, Dean Solomon, K. Marc Tefteau and Michael P. Vogel were recognized for "outstanding effort and achievement in the development of noteworthy educational aids." Of the 94 entries, only 24 received blue ribbons for being outstanding in originality and effectiveness.

The guide was submitted for the award by Marty Sailus, director, Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service (NRAES), its publisher.

"I submitted it so the group would have the chance to be recognized. Out of about 10 publications we did last year, we submitted three for the award," Sailus says. "It (the Home*A*Syst guide) is a high quality book that's useful to a wide scope of people, as well as a good-looking publication. A lot of work went into it."



National Home*A*Syst Director Kay Stanek, right, presents Home*A*Syst authors Richard Castelnovo, left, and Elaine Andrews, center, with their ASAE awards.

ASAE's competition encourages excellence in the exchange of ideas, successful methods and techniques, and in the overall improvement in the use of educational aids

Farm*A*Syst and Home*A*Syst Training Manuals

Baffled by septic? Stumped by wells? Flummoxed by the site evaluation? Don't be. A series of training manuals cover many of these Farm*A*Syst and Home*A*Syst assessment topics. Designed to help state and local staff understand the assessment categories, these manuals address basic facilities, operations, management practices, and risks to water quality.

Current topics cover:

- Drinking Water Well
- ◆ Household Wastewater Treatment
- Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Handling
- ◆ Petroleum Storage and Handling
- Site Evaluation
- ◆ Liability and Confidentiality Issues

Each training manual includes 40-60 slides, a 20-25 minute script, a program outline, a hypothetical case and a contacts and reference sheet.

To view the slide training manual, visit the Farm*A*Syst

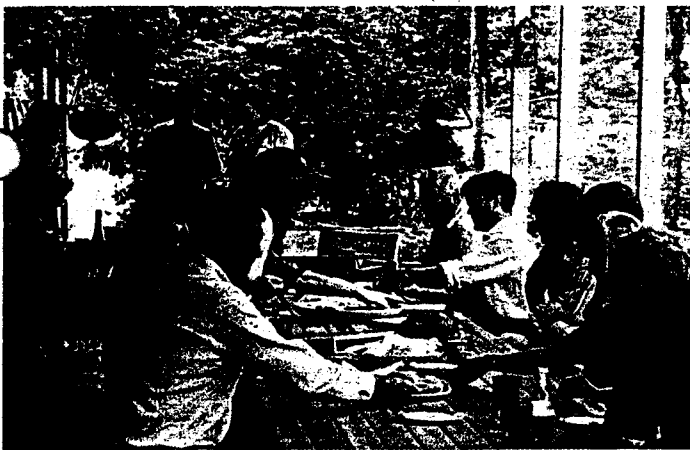
Visit the Farm*A*Syst web site at <http://www.wisc.edu/farmasyst>

web site at <http://www.wisc.edu/farmasyst>.

The manuals are \$30.00, including shipping and handling. The confidentiality supplement to *Liability in the Field* is \$14.00. To order, contact the national Farm*A*Syst/ Home*A*Syst office (address on page 4), (608) 262-0024, FAX (608) 265-2775, e-mail: farmasyst@wisc.edu, or order from the web site.

Awards for Georgia

Mark Risse, Georgia Farm*A*Syst state coordinator, has been named 1997 Outstanding Young Extension Professional (state staff) at the Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting. Risse and Lisa Ann Kelley also received awards for three posters: under extension projects state staff — second place for Farm*A*Syst and for By-product Utilizations; and under applied research state staff — first place for Animal Waste team.



Cotton growers David and Betsy Turner host the group setting up the demonstration farms on the afternoon of the Melbourne Cup horse race.

Australians ...continued from page 1

20 demonstration farms among the leadership of the 14 local/regional cotton growers associations, which are based on watersheds.

"They want implementation of the program to be through the local associations," Jackson says. "This is a producer-led effort to adapt a commodity-specific model. We are hoping to show commodity groups in the U.S. how this was accomplished."

"This has also opened up the possibility of trying to get Farm*A*Syst certified for ISO 14000 (International

Standards of Operation) to address environmental pollution prevention issues in national trade," Jackson adds.

Williams visited the national Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst office this summer during a fact-finding trip to the United States and Canada. Within a month of returning to Australia, he had recommended a Farm*A*Syst-type of program to his board of directors. Goals of the program are to have 30 percent of all cotton producers completing the BMP process within two years and 80 percent within three years.



Allan Williams, right, works with an Australian cotton farmer on identifying pollution risks on his property. It will be a demonstration farm for the local cotton growers association pilot effort.

EQIP...continued from page 1

Farm*A*Syst evaluation."

Georgia Farm*A*Syst will be conducting a training in all five regions, hosted by NRCS. Other joint projects with NRCS include a planned March training in the Little River Rooty Creek HUA, which targets farm families for education on agriculture's impact on ground and surface water quality. By not focusing on just farmers (but on the entire family) they hope the program can have greater impact and include young people in both agriculture and the environment.

Minnesota's Whitewater project is also being proposed as a "discrete priority area for EQIP," according to Larry Svien, Area Seven Resource Conservationist. "We do have EQIP funding for priority areas in a six-county area — covering approximately 2.6 million acres. Whitewater is located in Winona County and partially in Wabasha and Olmstead counties — approximately 230,000 acres.

"One of the reasons we picked Whitewater is because we've had a good cross-agency relationship for the past 15 years," he continues. "As I understand our process, we are going to probably be doing a whole farm resource assessment on the whole planning unit. At a minimum, the landowner will be required to address soil erosion and one other resource concern — whether it's wildlife, woodland or water quality — with resource protection down to a sustainable level."

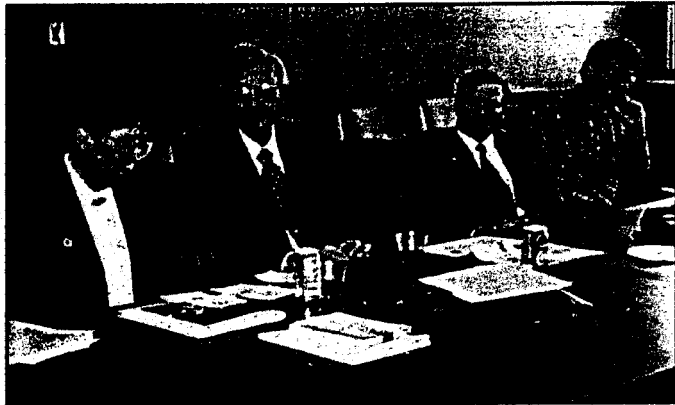
Svien developed the project by taking Farm*A*Syst concepts and refining it with the local technical team to fit what the locals wanted.

"As resource people, it caused us to sit down and define some levels of resource protection and degradation," he explains. "One limitation of the final project is that most of it is specifically aimed at Whitewater's needs and assessments and would have to be modified if it were to be used in another part of the state."

*Visit the Home*A*Syst web site at <http://www.wisc.edu/homeasyst>*

Extension dean presents awards to national staff

As University of Wisconsin-Extension Dean/Director Carl O'Connor presented the national staff with their plaques from the U.S. Agriculture Secretary's Honor Award, he said Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst is the example of the type of interagency program that is coming in the future. Although it is very difficult for such a program to work — with its various conflicts of budgets, staff and mission —



Left to right, Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst's Liz Nevers, University of Wisconsin-Extension Dean/Director Carl O'Connor, Steve Hemshrot and Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst's Richard Castelnuovo.

Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst succeeds, he says.

"When I was at a recent meeting in Colorado, each federal agency said the future is in community-based programs," O'Connor said. "Local advisory boards will determine where money will be spent and what projects have the highest priority. Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst is the model to show us the way."

Florida Home*A*Syst is in demand

Florida Home*A*Syst has already run through its first order of 5,000 copies of the Home*A*Syst book (distributed to all 67 counties) and already has 2,300 more requests for the publication.

"Neither Art (Hornsby, Florida Farm*A*Syst state coordinator), nor I were expecting such a positive — and overwhelming — reaction from our county extension agents to the Home*A*Syst materials," says Susan Williams, Florida Home*A*Syst state coordinator, "but then, water is an issue in the state and this issue is not going to go away anytime soon."

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