



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 2-6. 40th Annual Convention of the National Association of Conservation Districts at Opryland Hotel in

eral of the authors react emotionally to this quandary and take the scientific community to task. Even if such a thrashing is deserved, it would do us well to remember that if we are to succeed in transforming American agriculture into a sustainable system, we will need both the vision of the most vocal advocates and the basic science of the academics. Such a transformation will require an understanding of what is ecologically and technically possible, economically viable, and socially preferable.—*Thomas C. Edens, Associate Professor, Departments of Resource Development and Entomology, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University.*

Nashville. Contact NACD at P.O. Box 855, League City, TX 77573.

March 4. Third Annual Scientific Symposium of the Institute for Alternative Agriculture at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Washington. The subject is "Implications of Biotechnology for Sustainable Farming Systems." Contact IAA at 9200 Edmonston Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770.

March 14-17. Fourth National Pesticide Forum in Washington. Contact National Coalition Against the Mis-Use of Pesticides at 530 7th St., SE, Washington, DC 20003.

March 20-23. Annual Meeting of National Wildlife Federation at the Se-

attle Sheraton Hotel in Seattle. Contact National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

March 21-26. North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference at the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno, Nev. Contact Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th St., NW, Suite 725, Washington, DC 20005.

May 20-21. STEEP Soil Conservation Concepts and Accomplishments Symposium at Spokane, Wash. Contact Conferences & Institutes, Washington State University, 202 Van Doren Hall, Pullman, WA 99164.

Aug. 3-6. Annual Meeting of Soil Conservation Society of America at Winston-Salem, N.C. Contact SCSA at 7515 N.E. Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50021.

Aug. 18-21. Sixth International Scientific Conference of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Contact Agroecology Program, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

Sept. 9-12. 24th International Conference on Solar Energy in Verona, Italy. The subject is "New Energetic Technologies for Environment and Agriculture." Contact Roberto Visentin, c/o Studio Glisenti, 10, Corso Cavour, 37121 Verona, Italy.

Alternative agriculture curriculum

The University of Vermont has announced that it is offering a comprehensive alternative agriculture curriculum designed to prepare students for careers in farming, agribusiness, teaching, research, and government.

This is a summary of the new option provided by the Department of Plant and Soil Science:

Alternative Agriculture is a new option being offered by the Department of Plant and Soil Science at the University of Vermont. This option is oriented toward an agriculture that strives to lessen dependence on inputs from off the farm. Emphasis is on methods of obtaining sustained yields of high-quality feed and food through the use of ecologically sound management technologies. These strategies rely on ecological concepts, such that management results in optimum nutrient and organic matter cycling, closed energy flows, decreased soil erosion, balanced pest populations, enhanced multiple use of the landscape, and decreased production costs.

Students gain a solid base of course work in science, social science, arts and humanities, and communication. This option prepares students for careers in farming, agribusiness, teaching, research, and government. Curriculum requirements emphasize a broad education to develop the intellectual and experiential background needed to work in these areas in ways that minimize environmental pollution, decrease dependence on nonrenewable resources, and are ecologically harmonious.

More information is available from Bill Murphy, Department of Plant and Soil Science, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405.

