

Agricultural Progress Days Held at Rock Springs Last Week

Plowing champions were crowned in three divisions last week at one of the largest State Plowing Contests ever held in Pennsylvania.

Twenty-five contestants took part in the plowing matches held as part of the 1971 Agricultural Progress Days at Pennsylvania State University Rock Springs Agriculture Research Center. All plowmen were winners of county eliminations.

Champions selected were large plow, Dale Rebert, Spring Grove, York County, small plow, Frederick Butts, Towanda RD2, Bradford County, and contour, Myron A. Young, Chambersburg RD, Franklin County.

State Plowing Contest Director Charles Slaton, of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Harrisburg, announced that 4,000 people witnessed the plowing matches.

Other plowing contest winners were Harry Mosholder, of Rockwood RD1, Somerset County, second in large plow, Charles Hess, Dallastown RD1, York County, second in small plow, and James Ringler, Berlin RD1, Somerset County, second in contour.

Burton S. Horne, Penn State Extension agricultural engineer and field day chairman, said approximately 30,000 people attended the second day's activities which featured, in addition to the plowing matches, numerous field tours, educational exhibits, and family living and youth programs.

Jocelyn Palmer, 16, of Needmore, Fulton County, was crowned 1971 Conservation Queen at the plowing matches. Sponsor of the annual queen contest is the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.

Hay Show Winners

In the Statewide Hay Show, one of the largest ever held, the winning sample was exhibited by Rolling Rock Farms, of Ligonier, Westmoreland County. The champion sample was a first cutting of alfalfa, heat dried.

C. Earl Cole, of Milan, Bradford County, exhibited the re-



A large crowd gathers as men prepare to demonstrate the operation of a potato picker at Ag Progress Days. Because the ground was lumpy, several men were required to remove by hand the lumps of dirt. Not as large a crew would be necessary in more suitable ground, it was reported. Taking two rows at a time, the machine went over the ground at a

slow walk pace. The potatoes were dumped directly into a large bin which was pulled alongside. While the machine missed several potatoes, this was apparently because the crop was not quite mature enough for harvest and the potatoes clung to the vines which were discarded to the rear.



Two helicopters were on display at Ag Progress Days, this one demonstrating aerial spraying techniques, and the other giving rides for a fee.

serve champion sample. The Cole exhibit was a non-heat dried later cutting of alfalfa.

Hay show champions were announced by Dr. John E. Baylor, Penn State Extension agronomist.

The three-day event was sponsored by the Penn State College of Agriculture in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Grassland Council, State Plowing Contest Committee, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and equipment dealers.

Dr. Russell E. Larson, dean of the Penn State College of Agriculture, who spoke briefly at opening ceremonies, said that the annual field days has developed into one of the largest educational events in the nation.

"What you and thousands of other visitors will see here dur-

ing the three days is the result of, in many cases, years of experimentation, testing, and an ac-

cumulation of knowledge designed to provide practical solutions to contemporary problems," Dean Larson emphasized.

Dean Larson was recipient of a special award presented by the Pennsylvania Grassland Council "for his interest in promoting grassland agriculture."

Thursday's activities centered on scores of field demonstrations including forage harvesting, forage blowers, windrow conditioners, tillage and stone removal; educational exhibits; research tours; livestock demonstrations, and youth and family living activities.

Corn Silage Winners

The grand champion corn silage sample was exhibited by Joseph McMath, Shade Gap RD, Huntingdon County. The winning sample contained 7.2 per cent crude protein, 65 per cent total digestible nutrients; and 20 per cent crude fiber.

Jake Showalter, of Spruce Creek, Huntingdon County, exhibited the reserve champion corn silage sample. The sample had an analysis of 6.5 per cent crude protein; 65 per cent total digestible nutrients; and 17.5 per cent crude fiber.

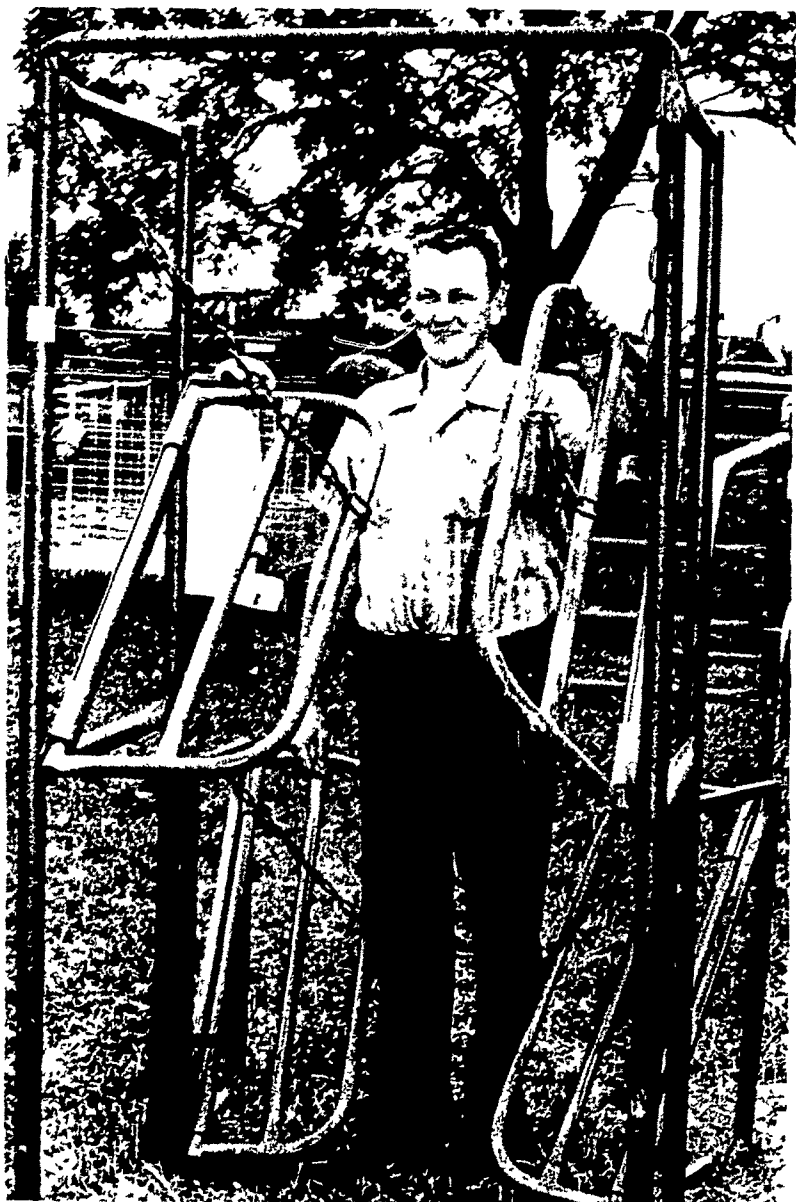
Warren Bucher, Myerstown RD1, Lebanon County, captured the grand championship in the Hay Crop Silage Show. The sample, low-moisture orchardgrass, contained 21.6 per cent crude protein; and 71 per cent estimated total digestible nutrients. Bucher also won the same championship last year.

Reserve champion hay silage sample was exhibited by Jack Hipple, Star Route, Trout Run, Lycoming County. The sample, mainly mixed legume, analyzed 21.5 per cent crude protein; and 65 per cent total digestible nutrients.

Other first place winners were: Robert W. Musser, Coburn, Centre County—mainly mixed legume.

Calvin Will, Berlin, Somerset County—mainly mixed grass.

There were 99 samples entered in silage competition from 23 Commonwealth counties.



Jim Hess, Quarryville RD2, examines an exit gate in the display of Frey Bros. Manufacturing Co., Quarryville RD2, at Ag Progress Days last week. The gate allows a cow to easily walk through, but not go back again. The Frey Bros. exhibit was one of several dozen at the three day show.



James McHale, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, chats with a farmer at Ag Progress Days last Wednesday.



This man, obviously enjoying his work at Ag Progress Days, constantly displayed this versatile piece of machinery designed to assist in such work as picking fruit. Using both his hands and feet, he could maneuver the bucket up and down and back and forth at the same time he changed the position of the machine itself.