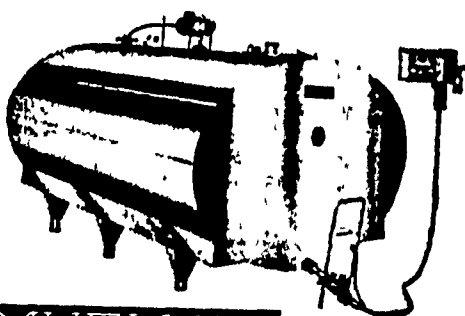


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## State Researchers At Grassland Conference

Dr. John S. Shenk and Dr. Robert F. Barnes, both with the College of Agriculture faculty at The Pennsylvania State University, presented two papers at the 12th International Grassland Congress held recently in Moscow, Russia.

Dr. Shenk is associate professor of plant breeding and Dr. Barnes is director of the Regional Pasture Research Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, located on the campus. A native of Willow Street, Lancaster County, Dr. Shenk is a graduate of Penn Manor High School.

The two scientists described their research efforts with the field mouse or meadow vole. This small animal has been extremely useful in their studies where the feeding value of plant material needed to be assessed with less than a pound of dry matter.

Such was the case in their first paper entitled "The weanling meadow vole as a bioassay of forage and cereal grain quality." One of the areas investigated in this paper was the evaluation of the effects of foliar diseases on the quality of alfalfa forage.

Two of five diseases tested significantly lowered the feeding value of the forage as compared to healthy forage. These findings could not be entirely explained by changes in the protein or digestibility energy of the diseased forages.

To obtain forage infected with a specific foliar disease, the forage had to be inoculated and grown under carefully controlled environmental conditions. Under these circumstances only a small quantity of forage was available for feeding trials.

The second paper, "Isolation of compounds from crownvetch toxic to weanling meadow vole," reported the identification of B-nitropropionic acid

(BNPA) in crownvetch forage. This paper was coedited by David L. Gustine of the U.S.D.A. Pasture Research Laboratory at Penn State. This discovery was the result of two years of research using the vole to monitor the chemical fractionation scheme for toxic compounds in crownvetch forage.

The concentration of BNPA in the forage ranged from 1 to 3 per cent, depending on management, storage, and genetic and environmental conditions. However, when a ration was formulated to contain only 0.15 per cent BNPA, and was fed to young growing chicks and swine, these animals lost weight and died.

## Ag Progress Days Scheduled

Bloomsburg Fairgrounds located near the center of scenic Columbia County will be the site for the annual Pa. Ag Progress Days on August 28-29.

Numerous activities are

planned for the two days. Along with the State Plowing Contest scheduled for August 28 at 10 a.m., there will be machinery demonstrations, family living displays, consumer and commercial exhibits along with livestock and horticulture programs.

Craftsmen from all over the state will be displaying their craft items and demonstrating their work.

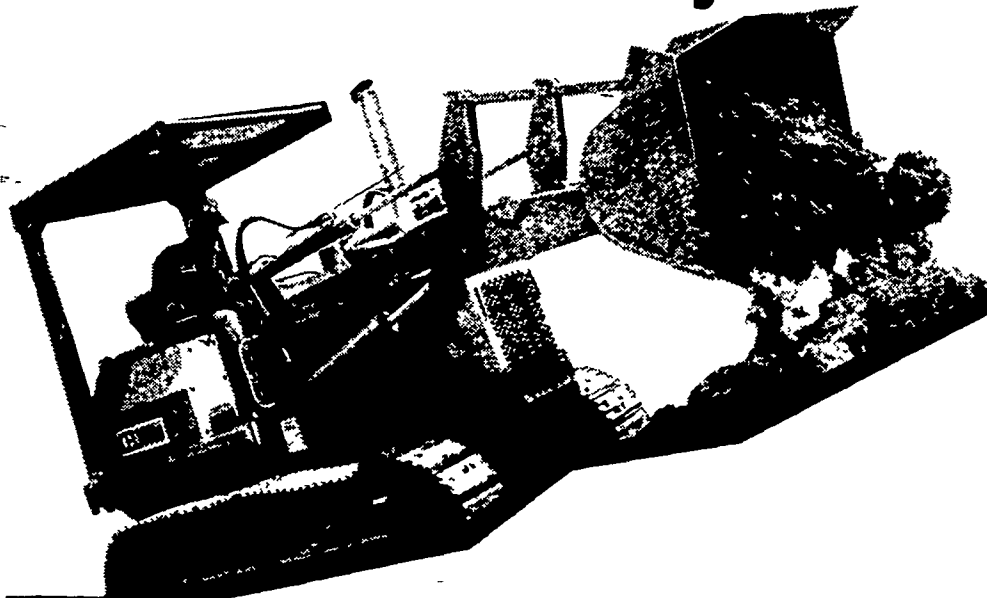
On Wednesday evening a program featuring square dancing, demonstrations on garden equipment and educational exhibits is scheduled.

Campsites are available near the grounds. For further information contact the Bloomsburg Chamber of Commerce in Bloomsburg, PA. 17815.

The site is located at the intersection of routes 11 and 42. For those using I-80, the fairground can be reached by taking exit 34.

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