

# Lancaster Farming

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## Something for everyone at Ag Progress

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
**ROCK SPRINGS** — There will be something for everyone when the "biggest and best ever" Ag Progress Days opens Tuesday at Penn State's Agricultural Research Center.

Theme of this year's event, which has attracted more than 250 commercial exhibitors who are displaying some \$20 million worth of equipment and machinery, is "Penn State Agriculture: 125 Years of Progress."

Machinery demonstrations are scheduled throughout the event, Tuesday through Thursday. Corn chopping and handling at 10:30 a.m. is followed by mowing at 11:30 a.m. Primary tillage gets started at 12:30 p.m., with secondary tillage at 2 p.m. Hay making winds up the demonstrations at 3 p.m.

Bus tours of the research plots leave every half hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from the headquarters. The buses will transport spectators to the wagon tour sites.

A theatre with continuous entertainment will offer a varied program of wide appeal. The program schedule includes segments in spinning, lace making, herbs and flowers, food safety, rural crime prevention, folklore, quilting, winemaking, horticulture and even some bluegrass music.

Special programs of interest to the small-fry will be staged daily in the children's tent. A Home and Family

Living tent will be the location of exhibits and demonstrations on energy-saving techniques, nutrition and health, family recreation, housing, cooking and clothing.

Among the educational exhibits staged by Penn State, Federal and State agencies and farm organizations will be wood products, on-the-spot forage analysis, a computerized program on auto purchase and operating costs and troublesome weeds.

The Dairy and Livestock Tent again will be a center of interest containing historical and contemporary displays. Top samples of hay and haylage will be on display in the Hay Tent.

Special events on Tuesday will be a Penn State ag alumni luncheon, a ceremony at the Jerome K. Pasto Agricultural Museum and a visit by Governor Dick Thornburgh and other top state leaders.

On Wednesday, there's the House Ag Committee luncheon and on Thursday a visit by the Susquehanna Region Grass Roots Committee.

Small woodlot management and other conservation practices can be seen in the conservation research area.

Altogether, it will be a mix of historic displays and antique machinery with the most up-to-date ways of heating a home, harvesting a crop, growing a garden or practicing soil and water conservation.



Acres of the latest models of farm equipment will be displayed and demonstrated during Ag Progress Days Tuesday through Thursday at Penn State.

Approximately 15,000 visitors a day are expected for the event.

All in all, the 1980 Ag Progress Days is expected to live up to its billing as the largest outdoor educational event for agriculture in the East.

The Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center is located along Route 45 nine miles west of State College.

gress Days Tuesday through Thursday at Penn State.

## Ag preserves inch ahead

**LINCOLN** — Agricultural land preservation in Lancaster County moved one small step farther toward reality this week.

The Ephrata Township Planning Commission and Township Board of Supervisors held a joint public hearing Monday night at which the initial draft of

revised agricultural zoning district regulations were unveiled for the first time to the farm community.

Reception by attending farmers was generally as warm as the humid temperatures prevailing in the Lincoln Fire Hall. An informal straw poll taken by the planning commission showed unanimous approval of the concept of farmland preservation and majority favor of the manner in which the township is tackling the pioneering legislation.

One of the primary concerns expressed by farmers dealt with existing zoning restrictions on non-conforming farming uses in residential districts governing how much these farm uses may expand.

Existing regulations state that non-conforming uses

may only be expanded one time up to 50 percent of present size. Farmers asked that the township consider lessening these regulations to permit unrestricted expansion so long as the operation would conform to new 200-foot setback requirements and vegetative screening as written into the amended code.

Among regulations in the new amended code for which farmers expressed wholehearted approval were those dealing with the recognition of the importance of farming and protection of the right to farm.

Early in the code a paragraph states the overall intent of the regulations:

"Provide maximum (Turn to Page A36)

## Adams County farmers charge unknowns with rain theft

**BY CURT HARLER**  
**GETTYSBURG** — A group of Adams County farmers, meeting for the second time in one week, has charged cloud seeders are preventing rain from falling on their farms.

In response to the charges delivered Wednesday, Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell has ordered the State Police and the Bureau of Aviation to investigate possible cloud seeding.

Hallowell took the action, invoking his power as chairman of the state weather modification board.

The farmer group, which also drew about 140 growers to a session last Friday night, says rain clouds regularly come over the mountains from the west but never dump the anticipated moisture in the county. These grain growers point to their stunted corn as proof of a lack of rain.

They say extremely high rates of cloud seeding, rather than encouraging rainfall, actually reduce the chances of rainfall to almost zero.

While nobody is pointing fingers publicly, several groups are mentioned as having motives to keep rainfall out of the County.

One is the Gettysburg area tourist trade which might

profit from good vacation days. The second is the construction business.

A third group is fruit farmers in the area who may fear a sudden rain could bring hail and damage tree (Turn to Page A15)

## In budget cuts:

### Is conservation fall guy?

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Will the 1981 conservation program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture be cut by more than 25 percent?

This question is embroiled in the current fiscal dilemma in the nation's capital as bureaucratic infighting flares to attempt to keep within President Carter's budget guidelines in

this election year.

All you get from Washington are rumors of budget cuts or informal confirmation of possible budget cuts.

The present rumor is that the Annual Conservation Program of the USDA will be cut by about \$50 million from the \$190 million level passed by the House. Consideration of budget levels are now

locked in discussion in the Senate.

As soon as the Democrats return from the convention in New York City, the rumors may start moving closer again to reality.

Reportedly, the Senate Appropriations Committee has been directed by the Senate Budget Committee to

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