



Ladies Have You Heard?

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WONDER WHERE YOUR \$ WENT?

Do you ever wonder if you are the average American? Can you believe that other families spend as much of their pay check for food as you do?

Economists say that most of us spend about 35 percent of our total income for federal, state and local taxes. That's clear. You may not like it, but at least you know where it goes. What about the rest of the take-home check? Is that so clearly cut?

Here is a list of average expenditures as a percentage of take-home pay. Look at them and think about your own spending habits. Yours may not be the same at all but, it's a good idea to ask yourself why your pattern is different. You may find you are spending more on one category than you intend. Reconsidering your buying habits is a good way to tighten your budget. * Housing & Household Operation 28%; * Food and Beverage 20%; * Transportation 14%; * Medical Care 9%; * Clothing 8%; * Recreation 15%; * All other (including savings) 15%.

BUILD YOUR FAMILY STRENGTHS

Doing things together, spending time together, talking and sharing — these are trademarks of strong and happy families. Strong families matter. They help each

other cope in times of stress, they promote well-being and self-worth, they teach each other to take responsibility for their lives.

Families can learn to enjoy their time together — they can become strong. One way is to plan to do something together. Take a field trip or an outing this spring — but plan ahead if you have small children. If you and your children develop the habit of having fun together early, it will stay with you throughout life. Here are some pointers to help you make your next trip with young children a success.

Consider the age of your child. Is this the time to take a friend along? Know what your child likes and is able to manage. Plan to spend only as much time as you all can handle. Choose a place that will really interest your child — don't just go somewhere to go.

Several days before the outing contact someone at the place you will visit. Sometimes the owner or manager can plan something special or give you more information to help you plan your day. If you are going to watch someone at work, make sure the time is convenient.

Prepare your child. Explain where you are going, what you will see, and when you will go. Children like to know what's going to happen and what it's going to be like. If there are special

Scientists announce new approach to Md. ag research

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The University of Maryland and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station announced last Tuesday they will implement a program to provide new opportunities for multi-discipline agricultural research.

The program is called the "Center for Advanced Agricultural Concepts" and will be located at the Wye Research and Education Center near Queenstown, Md.

Stressing a "multi-discipline approach" to challenges facing American agriculture, MAES Director W.L. Harris said the program will "concentrate on bringing a combination of our research resources to bear on some of these problems."

"This is a systems approach to agricultural research, one which is valued by science because it is a

way of looking at a problem from several different perspectives

precautions to take, explain them before you go. And always be clear about the behavior you expect. Give your child specifics. Talk about things to see and look for. If you can, look at a book about the subject before you go. Take along a pad and pencil so you and your children can make notes or drawings of things you see.

After your trip, talk about what you've seen and done. Talk about each other's reactions and about the things you liked best. What was funny? What was surprising or interesting? What was the best part? These are the things that bind families together.

way of looking at a problem from several different perspectives

"With this Center we are providing the opportunity for a coordinated group of scientists to work as a research team seeking solutions to complex problems rather than as individuals pursuing the objective of a single discipline," Harris said.

This program will build upon that which has existed at Wye since 1966. The research accomplishments at this site have included the development of no-tillage agricultural systems and the successful breeding of wheat, soybean and strawberry plant varieties.

Six areas of research will fall under the Center's program. They are:

* **Integrated Pest Management**, in which scientists will study biological, chemical and cultural methods of pest control. In addition, they will examine the economic factors and environmental effects of pest control to determine the most efficient control methods in crop applications.

* **Cattle Breeding and Genetics**, in which animal scientists will continue their studies of the world-famous Wye Angus Herd.

* **Plant Genetics and Breeding**, in which agronomists, botanists and horticulturists will attempt to breed plants with characteristics suitable for Maryland crop growers, establishing new plant germ plasm for disease-resistance

and sound nutritional characteristics

* **Energy Development, Use and Conservation**, in which scientists will study agriculture's increasing dependence on finite sources of energy and will explore alternative energy source development

* **Quality of Life**, in which research will concentrate on the physical, social, and community problems which add to an aesthetic environment. Research areas will include landscaping, ornamental plants, and forestry

* **Interaction of Land and Water**, in which researchers will examine the complex relationships between soil, air, water and agriculture's use of these resources

An effective research program requires an efficient and broad based system of technology transfer, Harris said. In addition to the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, the Center will have access to the resources of the Aspen Institute of Humanistic Studies and Wye Institute for this important aspect of the program.

"The Center is ideally suited to provide information to large numbers of people who need, and are requesting, this information," Harris said.

"This is an ever-growing group which includes Maryland farmers, consumers, agribusinessmen and women, scientists, students and policy makers," Harris said.



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