

# Lancaster Farming

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Four Sections

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\$7.50 per Year

## Record 85,000 attend Ag Progress Days

Photo by Trish Williams

### 330 exhibitors display their wares



Field demonstrations are always popular at Ag Progress. As primary tillage teams of men and machines go through their paces, large crowd lines field adjacent to "midway."

**BY LAURA ENGLAND**  
**ROCK SPRINGS** — Considered one of the largest events of its kind east of the Mississippi River, Penn State's Ag Progress Days drew a record crowd of 85,000, topping last year's record by 8,000.

With the theme, "Agriculture — Growing for You," Ag Progress Days opened Aug. 23 with a first day attendance of 25,000. Despite this year's lower crop production, the crowds poured in to hear the latest news from the 330 exhibitors and to watch machinery demonstrations in action.

According to Samuel Smith, dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture, two of the more popular events were the equipment demonstrations and the "Ask the Specialist" tents where guests could get answers to their management and production questions.

Smith said he was pleased with the attendance and compared it to that of a Penn State football game, one of the University's more popular events.

Improved parking had a direct effect on the crowd attendance, Smith explained. "It was more efficient," he said, "and there was less delay. Fewer people had to wait."

Smith said Ag Progress Days is a great way to inform others about Pennsylvania agriculture. "It's the best thing we can do to let people in the state know what agriculture is doing," he said.

Ag Progress Days, which ran from Aug. 23 to 25, featured demonstrations ranging from energy conservation in the home, to preventing rural crime, the use of computers on the farm, family health, knitting and needlework, and a variety of commercial exhibits showing the latest in production and management needs.

Demonstrations were also geared to the youth as a 4-H tent sponsored model rocket launchings, and featured games and crafts. A computer was also on display to give youth an idea of the importance of computers in the future.

Pennsylvania produce could also be sampled at several of the refreshment booths. Also on hand were the state commodity queens and princesses, distributing information and recipe ideas dealing specifically with Pennsylvania grown foods.

In addition to the exhibits at the Rock Springs site, tours of the Penn State research plots and conservation projects were given. Those touring the research plots were able to view the Clark Kerr

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### Poultry hit by extra 1-2-3 punch

**LANCASTER** — As if marketing conditions and higher feed costs haven't been enough, area poultry farmers have been hit with an additional one-two-three punch.

First, there's been the Avian influenza outbreak in Lancaster County, which earlier showed signs of abating, but just doesn't seem to want to go away. Some 250 attended an Avian meeting last Friday at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center and were urged to practice the strictest of security measures to prevent the spread from farm to farm.

Second, the hot summer, which has cut severely into production, culminated in last Saturday's 100-degree steam bath and caused appreciable death losses.

And third, the EPA has temporarily revoked Pennsylvania's emergency exemption to use Larvadex, the feed-through larvacide which is being widely used for fly control.

The Avian flu outbreak has been around in Lancaster County since April and is still concentrated in the Manheim area.

At the Aug. 19 meeting, veterinary specialists again stressed the need for maximum security measures to prevent its spread. Strict security will contain the flu, permitting it to run its course and be eliminated through its own self-limiting nature. If not spread, the flu — which is not transmitted through either eggs or meat — will run its course in a flock in two to three weeks.

Poultry farmers were urged to keep ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL out of their houses, including service personnel. The flu also can be transmitted in other ways, such as on egg flats or even by wild birds through droppings.

Concerning the heat losses, estimates are placed at about 100,000 in the Lancaster-Lebanon area — primarily among older broilers, the most susceptible.

And, of course, a return to hotter

weather in the mid-90's was forecast for this weekend. Last Saturday's 100-degree temperatures were just too much for some ventilation systems.

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### U.S. signs long-term Soviet grain deal

**MOSCOW** - Ag Sec. John Block signed a \$10 billion

grain deal with the Soviet Union this week.

Block commented: "This puts an emphatic end to embargoes."

Do you believe this?

See editorial on A10.

### Penn Packing to re-enter hog buying arena

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
**PHILADELPHIA** — Area hog producers may get an economic shot in the arm just when they need it.

In the face of a glut of hogs and recent uncertainty about buyers, producers will be welcoming the re-entry of Penn Packing Co., of Philadelphia, into the sales arena beginning next month.

Penn Packing, which closed its doors in June, 1981, will resume operations on September 12 under the name of Butler Foods, Inc., according to Ed Hall Jr., hog buyer.

Butler will be coming into New Holland, Lancaster and Vintage to buy through the regular auction channels, Hall said.

Initially, Butler plans to process about 3,000 hogs a day, with as many as possible being bought locally in Pennsylvania, Jersey, North Jersey and Maryland, Hall explained.

The planned kill figures of about 15,000 hogs a week would put Butler at about half of the weekly number being slaughtered and cut in early 1981 prior to the closing.

Future plans may call for the

establishment of buying stations in places like Northern Pennsylvania, Hall added.

Previously, Penn Packing had operated a buying station at the Green Dragon Market, processing some 2,000 hogs a week. But there are no plans to resume the station there, Hall said.

The re-entry of Butler Foods into hog buying is expected to shake up area marketing — just as its closing two years ago had its effects.

But this time, the effect should be positive.

Back in 1981, the closing caused about a \$1.00 per hundredweight drop in prices.

The re-opening of operations may cause a similar positive effect on the market this time.

And, any positive effect on the market couldn't have come at a better time for hog producers.

Stronger market trends have been in evidence lately and the impetus of another major buyer may help prolong and even strengthen this trend.

Any positive market signs are particularly welcomed now as producers face twin problems of

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Hatfield Packing, represented by Ezra Good, left, bought the Grand Champion pig from Floyd Huber at the Lancaster County 4-H Pig Round-Up and Sale. See story on A35.