Celebrate National Ag Day, March 20

Come sun, sleet or snow, Marcu 20 will mark the first day of Spring, the arrival of a new planting season and the 11th annual observance of National Agriculture Day.

Ag Day, falling midpoint in

Agriculture Week (March 16-22), is Foundation in Washington, D.C., is set aside each year to recognize the producers of the nation's food and fiber and to serve as a forum of education about the country's largest industry. The Agriculture Council of America Education

n Aid to

national coordinator of Ag Day activities.

As in numerous farming communities across the country, York County's agriculture producers will salute an "Ag Day baby."

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The first baby born on March 20 at York or Memorial Hospital will receive a gift package including a variety of locally-produced farm commodities, presented by county extension agent Tony Dobrosky. York County Agri-Women is

coordinating the Ag Baby commodity presentation of meat. dairy, fruit, vegetable and poultry products.

In a "Chief Executive Officer -Farmer" swap, a local business leader and farm producer will trade places for a first-hand look at the other's line of work.

Bill Groft, York Bank and Trust, will trade his desk and office on Ag Day for several hours with New Park orchard and grain producer Paul McPherson. On the following day, McPherson plans to don suit and tie for an in-depth look at the local banking industry.

In addition, on the national level, Mrs. John Block, wife of Secretary of Agriculture John Block, will host a midmorning news conference and reception for the new "Miss Agriculture" at the Department of Agriculture. Watch for the announcement of the winner this weekend on television. Irene Williams, Pa. Lamb and Wool Queen, and Tammy Zimmerman, Pennsylvania Potato Queen, were named two of the 10 finalists.

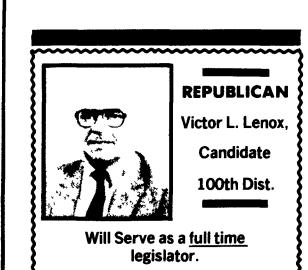
Also on Ag Day, Secretary Block will attend and speak at a National Press Club luncheon, beginning with a reception at noon.

The evening of the 20th, members of Congress and the Cabinet, along with state and national agricultural organization leaders, will attend a "Taste of the Country" barbeque/reception on the patio at the USDA Administration Building, featuring both Texas and North Carolina-style barbeque and an array of other foods to be enjoyed while the "Bluegrass Bureaucrats" band entertains.

Some of the accomplishments being celebrated Ag Day are as follows

Agriculture production provides a firm foundation for the U.S. economy, accounting for about 20 percent of the nation's gross national product and more than 22 percent of its jobs, according to studies made by the Agriculture Council of America Education Foundation.

Sales of agriculture products, including food, clothing, tobacco, shoes, cut flowers, seeds and potted plants, generates more than \$156 billion in production agriculture and \$765 billion in the off-farm economy.



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