

Ag Progress: A happy time in Happy Valley



Primary tillage demonstrations drew scores of interested farmers to inspect results.



"The Weed Doctor", Nate Hartwig, helped farmers with information on identification and control.



Representing the Pa. Game Commission and its talent for managing wild "livestock" was Henry, a whitetail buck. Chris and Rodney Althoff of Quarryville are suitably impressed.



There was no shortage of pleasant scenery at Ag Progress, as Pa. Jersey Queen Carol Dreisbach distributed the "Jersey Jack" cheese...

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chinson of Huntingdon County and William Leamer of Indiana County coming in second and third, respectively.

Between scheduled activities there was plenty of time to browse among the displays provided by hundreds of commercial exhibitors presenting the latest in ag technology.

From the tractor dashboard to the office, computer technology is taking agriculture by storm, and nowhere was this revolution more evident than at Ag Progress. Of particular interest to farmers was a public access information service dedicated to agriculture. Installed in high-traffic areas and activated by a credit card, the system will give farmers instant access to the latest in market and weather information.

In the College of Agriculture tent, farmers had an opportunity to quiz specialists on a variety of topics from computer science to weed and insect control to personal health.

For those with questions relating to animal production, the Dairy and Livestock tent provided many of the answers. Here, farmers also had a chance to get acquainted with the various breed organizations.

In the forage tent, Dr. John Baylor began sifting through hay and silage entries at noon on Tuesday, picking his champions of the Pennsylvania Hay Show by mid-afternoon. (See Hay Show results in this issue.)

Featured for the first time at Ag Progress was the General Store, a commodities booth manned by Penn State agriculture students, who sold nearly 100 agricultural commodities during the three-day event.

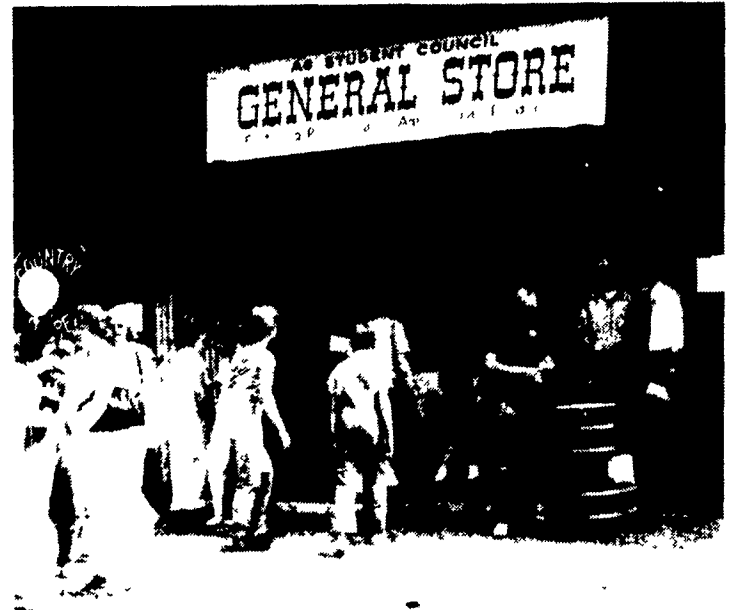
And there was no shortage of groceries elsewhere on the grounds, with every errant breeze laden with the scent of dairy, beef, pork and poultry products, and, of course, Dick Markle's "steam tractor" bean soup.

"Ag Progress correctly portrays agriculture as Pennsylvania's number-one industry," said state representative Samuel Hayes after attending the event's final day. He also noted that the three days in Rock Springs also serve as a reminder of the importance of the College of Agriculture and the University to the state's agricultural community.

Another benefit of Ag Progress, according to Sam Smith, is the show's ability to relay this message to members of the non-farming public. Smith also noted that this year's event was dedicated to Dr. Russell E. Larson, dean of the College of Agriculture from 1963 to 1972. A driving force behind the development of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Larson negotiated the purchase of the Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center during the early 1970's.



Professor of animal nutrition, Dr. Robert Cowan, created quite a stir with his 10-pound antelope. Penn State has found the tiny South African antelope well suited to forage research.



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Photos by Jack Hubley



...and Cumberland County Dairy Princess, Vonda Wickard, offered balloons with a dairy message.