Ralston Purina gives \$50,000 to Penn State

CAMP HILL, PA - Ralston Purina Company has pledged \$50,000 to Penn State's Ag Arena, the largest corporate gift to date in the fund-raising campaign.

Thomas T. Potterfield, Director of Operations of Ralston Purina's North Atlantic Area, presented University officials with a check for the first \$20,000 installment in Dec. 5 ceremonies at the company's Camp Hill plant.

The gift was made through the Ralston Purina Trust Fund and is the company's largest ever in Pennsylvania. In recognition of the commitment, the Ag Arena's main conference room will bear the company's name.

Representing Penn State at the were University ceremonies Trustee Obie Snider, chairman of the campaign committee. Samuel H. Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture, and J. Luther Snyder, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, also attended.

'The Ag Arena is already one of the most used facilities at Penn State," Smith said. "The Ralston Purina gift represents not only a handsome contribution of muchneeded dollars but also a vote of confidence in Penn State and Pennsylvania agriculture.'

Potterfield said that although Ralston Purina is headquartered in St. Louis, Mo., "Our roots are deep in Pennsylvania agriculture and our future is dependent upon

(Ralston Purina owns six plants in the state for manufacturing feed for livestock, pountry and pets including two opened in the last two years in Lancaster and in Wyalusing, Bradford County.)

In addition, Potterfield said, 'Penn State, in our opinion, is one of the top agriculture universities in the nation. We regularly recruit there, and a high percentage of our sales force are Penn State graduates. They are some of the best-trained people we have.

The Penn State Ag Arena is being build entirely with private support and has received more than 6,000 gifts during the five-year fund-raising campaign. At an estimated cost of \$1.8 million, it is the second largest such project undertaken at the University (the Philip M. and Barbara Greenberg Indoor Sports Complex, at \$2.6 million, ranks highest).

The main arena building housing a large show ring, conference room, offices and other meeting areas, was recently completed. A contractor will be chosen this winter to build a smaller holdingand-preparation center next door.

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Penn State and Ralston Purina officials look over plans for the university's new Ag Arena, after company officials announced the firm would donate \$50.000 to school's fund-raising campaign for the structure. Picture from left are Purina's Harrisburg Production Manager Tom VanLone; Rex Richards, Sales Manager for the firm's Northeast Chow Consumer Division; Obie Snider, a university trustee and chairman of the fund-raising campaign, holding a \$20,000 check representing the company's first installment; Tom Potterfield, director of Operation in Purina's North Atlantic Area; Samuel H. Smith, dean of the university's College of Agriculture; Glenn Shields, sales manager in Purina's Chesapeake Sales Division; and J. Luther Snyder, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Company officials also gave credit to Gary Anderson, sales manager for Purina's Keystone region, who was not available for the photography session.

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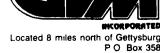
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