

Ag Progress is fun for the whole family

UNIVERSITY PARK — Penn State this week hosts the largest outdoor showcase of university programs and agricultural technology in the East. More than 75,000 people attended Ag Progress Days last year—and they weren't just farmers and researchers! There's something for every member of the family at the annual event.

Penn State family living specialists and Extension home economists have developed a computer exhibit with four computers to give visitors hands-on experience. Financial planning and farm stress management are among the topics covered in the specially designed computer programs. Demonstrations are scheduled in the College Agriculture Building on a rotating basis throughout each of the three days so visitors will have ample opportunity to see each one.

A sort of "cozy corner" will be in the "Ask The Experts" Tent where families can relax while children use crayons to draw their own "memory" of Ag Progress Days.

Designs can be used as iron-ons for T-shirts. The family living specialists will hold fish-bowl drawings throughout the day to give away T-shirts to children. They also will share ideas and literature on ways to strengthen family bonds through story-telling and sharing memories.

Another family living exhibit will focus on nutrition. The specialists will feature fact sheets, recipes and food substitutions that help maintain good health and prevent heart disease. Everyone in the family will want to try the free bran muffins and orange shakes at this exhibit.

The family living exhibits are one of many places at Ag Progress Days that you can get a taste—literally—of what Penn State and agriculture are all about. Visitors can also stop by the Red Barn at the top of the exhibition area where students in the College of Agriculture will have Pennsylvania produce on sale in the Country Store. Fruit and juices, milk and cookies and lots of other edibles will be there.

Near the main information booth Ag Student Council will offer french fried mushrooms, hot sweet corn, hot dogs and plenty of ice cold drinks. In addition, many service organizations will have food booths with sandwiches, soups, broiled chicken and all the extras for lunch.

After a taste break, visitors with children will want to see the 4-H tent with its food and nutrition exhibits and various demonstrations. Children can join in the festivities with barn games and turtle races. (The speedy turtles, respectfully named Head, Heart, Health and Hands, will be provided by 4-H.)

4-H'ers will give demonstrations of rabbits, goats and sheep in the afternoons. Mornings, the Shavers Creek Nature Center will host a special predator exhibit featuring owls, snakes and hawks.

If you're interested in more animals—stop by the Dairy and Livestock tent to see the deer and beef cows.

Meanwhile in the lecture building you'll find entertainment—

and serious information about home-garden insects, Robotics, vegetables and a number of other topics of interest to city dwellers and suburbanites as well as farm families.

A Penn State entomologist will be masquerading as a giant green bug, discussing "Bugs—a hindrance and a help." For more fun—don't miss the magician who will show off his bag of tricks at 3 p.m. each of the three days. And for

foot-stomping music the whole family will enjoy—string bands will provide live entertainment at noon in the lecture building.

Regular features at Ag Progress Days will include the Pasto museum with antique home and farm implements, tours of agronomic and horticultural research plots, conservation areas and all the latest agricultural equipment. Look in the schedule for field demonstrations to see the machinery at work.

Two tours available at Ag Progress

ROCK SPRINGS — For the first time this year, Ag Progress Days will feature separate Soil and Water Conservation and Forestry and Wildlife Tours, according to Ag Progress Days Conservation chairman Frederick Bubb.

Both tours will leave from the conservation tent at the west end of 11th Street at the Ag Progress Days exhibition area. Tickets are free, and are available at the conservation tent.

A bus will transport people to the woodland and wildlife demonstration area. Buses will leave every hour, on the hour from 11:00

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The woodland tour will be a walking tour lasting about one hour.

Soil and water conservation tours will leave from the conservation tent every 20 minutes from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This tour is a riding tour with optional unloading stops. The tour lasts about one-half hour. Persons taking this year's soil and water conservation tour will receive a free packet of black-eyed susan seeds as a part of the 50th Anniversary of the National Soil Conservation Program.

Computers in new building

UNIVERSITY PARK — Visitors returning to the 1985 Ag Progress Days during August will notice something new. This year's theme, "Growing With Computers," involves computer demonstrations under the roof of a new building.

"The College of Agriculture has always had carefully planned displays," says Dr. John Skelly, professor and head of the Department of Plant Pathology and chairman of Ag Progress Days' special display committee. "But this year, we thought it would be appropriate to pick a theme that would cross department lines and create a real show for the college's benefit. This will bring people inside."

Computers, Skelly says, involve all the College's departments. "They represent the modern technology that farmers use," he adds. "We hope visitors will recognize the computer as the major tool it is to the farm system—

in business management, environmental control and disease prediction."

Among the computerized displays inside the College's building are:

- An office automation system, including demonstrations in electronic mail and laser printing, from Extension Computer Services.

- A soil information center from the Department of Agronomy that will demonstrate techniques in infrared forage analysis.

- An animal evaluation system that uses ultrasonics to measure lean and fat in live animals, from the Department of Dairy and Animal Science.

- Programs that can help farmers establish the optimum size for a bulk tank, the cost effectiveness of a heat reclaimer system and the best milking systems, also from the Department of Dairy and Animal Sciences.

- Software on insect management from an "Extension Office of the Future" from the Department of Entomology.

- Electronic "tools" for decision-making, covering everything from food preservation to auto care costs to mental stress, from both the Southeast Region's Extension Family Living program and state Extension family living specialists.

- Displays on computer mapping for natural resource management and genetic research on Christmas trees from the School of Forestry Research.

- An answering service from Extension's Plant Disease Clinic that enables visitors to solve common plant problems through easy computer programs.

- A system of poultry industry controls, from the Departments of Poultry Science and Ag Engineering.

ASCS urges farmers

to monitor grain condition

YORK — With more than 53,917 bushels of loan grain stored on York County farms, York ASCS chairman Harry Wolf recently urged producers to continue to check the quality of their farm-stored grain to assure that it remains in good condition.

"Proper maintenance of farm-stored grain—whether it's in the grain reserve or under loan—is the full responsibility of the farmer," he said. When wheat or other grains are stored on the farm for extended periods, regular inspections are required in order to detect insect infestation or grain deterioration. The market value of infested wheat may be substantially reduced if the insect

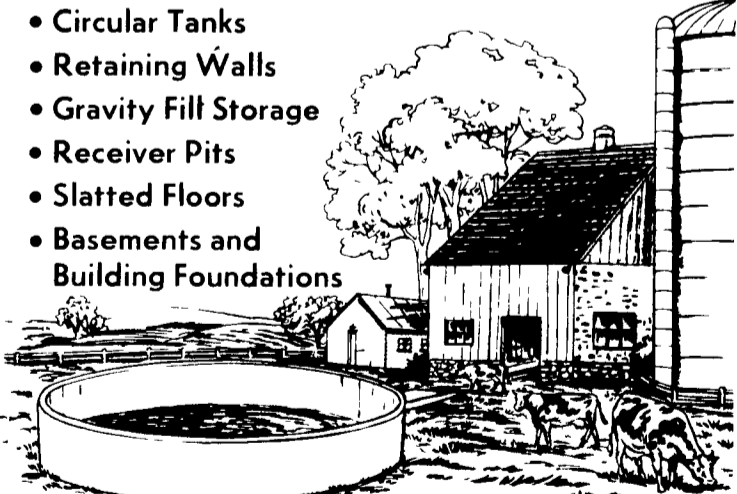
damage is sufficient to lower the grain quality.

Wolf said ASCS is currently inspecting random samplings of wheat, oats and barley in the reserve. Where problems exist, producers will be instructed to precondition the grain, rotate it with new crops or repay the loan. "Farmers should not rely on our spot checks as a substitute for their regular inspections, however."

Farmers are also reminded to obtain ASCS authorization before comingling rotating, moving or selling grain under loan. Penalties will be imposed when the grain is removed or disposed of before repayment or before a release authorization is obtained from ASCS.

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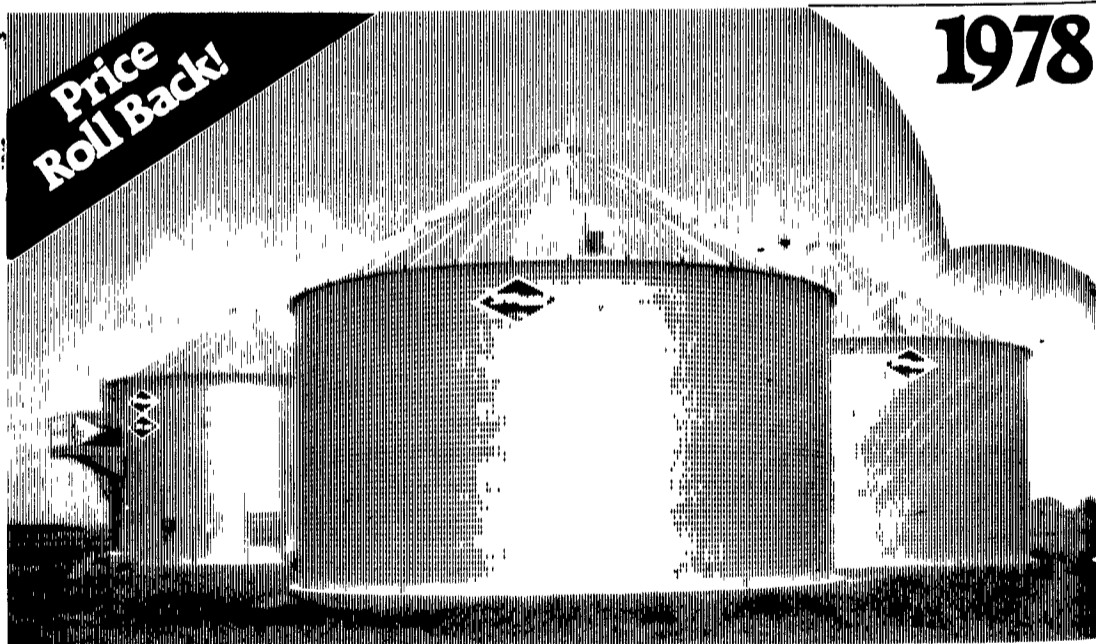
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