

### 'Ag enterprise' seminar slated

UNIVERSITY PARK — Entrepreneurs interested in creating their own farm business can start their venture on the right track by attending the day-long "Small Scale Ag Enterprise Seminar,"

scheduled for Saturday, March 22. The seminar will be held at the Sewickley Country Inn, located on Route 65 two miles north of Interstate 95's Exit 19. The event,

### PSU honors top nursery student

UNIVERSITY PARK — Kimberly A. Miller of Conestoga has been named the outstanding student in Penn State's Ornamental Nursery Management program. She received the award, sponsored by the College of Agriculture Alumni Society, at the Winter Course Graduation, March 1.

Miller graduated at the top of her class. Because of her outstanding performance, she also won the Nursery Alumni Association Award, which is granted each year to a student in the program who has demonstrated promise as a professional in the nursery industry.

Miller has a bachelor's degree from Penn State and has been employed by Stauffer's of Kissell Hill in Rohrerstown for the past four years.

The two-year technical program in ornamental nursery management is offered by Penn State's Department of Horticulture. The program combines

two eight-week terms a year of on-campus classes and a six month period of on-the-job training. It is designed for those who seek management and other professional positions in landscape nurseries, production nurseries or garden center operations.

Students take technical and scientific classes in agronomy, botany, horticulture, landscape architecture and plant pathology. To improve their communications skills students also take classes in speech, English, and in individual and family studies.

Dr. David J. Beattie, assistant professor of ornamental horticulture at Penn State, coordinates the program.

For more information about the program in ornamental nursery management, contact Dr. David Beattie at (814) 863-2263. For more information about winter courses and short courses for professional development in agriculture, contact the short courses office at (814) 865-8301.

sponsored by Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Westmoreland County Agent and seminar organizer Eric Oesterling says his office gets many requests from people who think they want to get into agriculture.

"They have some land which they think should be paying for itself, or they always wanted to be a farmer. In any case, they often have little background in agriculture or the particular enterprise they are considering," he explains. "This seminar will introduce the audience to the basics and to the sources to which they can turn for more reliable in-

formation."

Oesterling says the seminar will concentrate on enterprise possibilities for small acreages. Penn State specialists, county agricultural agents and successful state farmers will address each session.

The morning session will cover topics like soil and fertilizer care, machinery management, and small farm buildings and facilities. Participants can choose two of the following afternoon sessions: nursery and greenhouse crops, Christmas trees, livestock enterprises, horse enterprises, small animal production, vegetables, field crops and beekeeping.

"People who want to start a

profitable agricultural venture today can't afford many mistakes," Oesterling says. "The Small Scale Ag Enterprises seminar will give people good, objective advice on the possibilities."

The seminar's \$12 registration fee, which includes the cost of lunch and educational materials, must be mailed by Friday, March 14. Make checks payable to the Westmoreland County Extension Fund, and send to the Westmoreland County Extension Service, Small Scale Ag Enterprises Seminar, P.O. Box 250 Greensburg, PA 15601. For more information, call your county office of the Cooperative Extension Service.



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