



Larry Jordan



Dale Smoker



Ira Whiteman



Bob Stitt



Ken Ewer and Ken Ewer III

Ag Progress Continues

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products and preserve farmland have been implemented.
"As governor, I intend to work with farmers and local governments to develop and administer agricultural land preservation programs," Scranton added. "Our agricultural community and state government should work together to assure that our products continue to hold center stage. By working with the Export-Import Bank to develop international markets and by developing long-term produce contracts with major supermarket chains in this state, we can work to displace imports and assure the continued vitality of our agricultural community."

Scranton was accompanied by a number of state officials including Secretary of Agriculture Richard Grubb and Penn State Dean Lamartine Hood.

To get a grass roots feel for what people were thinking about their experience at Ag Progress, informal, random interviews were conducted with people on Main

Street at the show. Here is what these people were saying.

The Ag Progress visitors interviewed found much to interest them at the annual agricultural fair. In fact, they saw so many things that most found it impossible to name just one that was most interesting.

"Everything is interesting," observed Dale Smoker, a dairyman from Elliottsburg. However, when pressed, he confessed that a new piece of machinery that wraps round bales in plastic for storage captured his attention.

Ron Reese, a dairy farmer from Port Matilda, and Rodney Bruss, a dairyman from Julian, agreed that they had seen many interesting things and even had a few ideas they might put to use at home. "I've seen ideas I'd like to take home," Reese said.

The field machinery demonstrations caught the eye of Armstrong County farmer Bob Stitt and his son Charlie. Company representatives demonstrated the

latest models of field equipment designed for crop production and harvesting, including chisel plows, heavy-duty disks, no-till planters and forage harvesters, mower-conditioners, tedders, rakes and balers.

Barry and Cathy Barns, farmers from Portage, came to Ag Progress specifically to look at farm equipment and to compare models. "We come every year," they said. This year, they arrived early, but by mid-afternoon had paused for a rest.

Ken Ewer and his family from Quakertown were enjoying the event but said they would like to see more exhibits geared toward the small farmer. Ewer and his daughter have only a few acres on their farms and consider themselves hobby farmers. They think there are many others like them who farm 25 acres or less.

Ag Progress visitors weren't the only ones having a good time. Larry Jordan, coordinator of the plant pathology farm at Penn State, was enjoying the op-



Jerry and Sharon Rice and their 22-month-old daughter, Tara, take a break from their Ag Progress activities for a snack. The Rice family has a dairy farm in Mt. Pleasant Mills.



The most modern equipment available was shown at Ag Progress. This round bale wrapping machine was imported from Norway by Mega-Tech International to be displayed for Cummings and Bricker, Inc.



Rodney Bruss



Ron Reese



Barry and Cathy Barns

portunity to share his research with others. "It's our time of year to show everything off," he said. This year, Jordan had a raspberry trellis system to share with small fruit growers.

Another exhibitor, Ira Whiteman with Doebler's Hybrids, was also relishing the opportunity to share his company's products with farmers. "We do take great pride in putting up a nice booth," he said.

Whiteman said he has been

coming to Ag Progress for years and has watched the event grow year after year. More and more companies want to be seen, and ag fairs like this are the place to do just that, he said. "Since Pennsylvania doesn't have a state fair, this is the closest thing to it," he added.

A quick glance around the crowd offered assurance that these weren't the only people enjoying the fair. Everyone seemed to have found at least one thing that made the trip worthwhile for them.



Beaver/Lawrence County Dairy Princess Karen Leslie was distributing "I Love Milk" stickers to Ag Progress visitors Wednesday. Here, 9-year-old Kendra Forsythe of Mifflinburg receives her sticker.