

Ag Progress Days Offers Full Range Of Equipment Demonstrations

UNIVERSITY PARK — There's nothing like watching equipment at work to help you make purchasing decisions for farm operations. And that's just what you can do at Penn State's Ag Progress days, August 18-20.

"We expect approximately 275 exhibitors displaying farm equipment and agricultural products worth more than \$20 million this year," says Ag Progress Days manager Joseph Harrington.

"Equipment displays and machinery demonstrations are a part of the College of Agriculture showcase because we feel it is a service to the farm community. The college is committed to helping farmers be profitable, making appropriate equipment decisions

that can mean a big difference in a farmer's profit margin," he adds.

Visitors can see exhibitors' latest models and materials and suppliers' newest equipment ranging from fencing systems to agricultural chemicals and even agricultural buildings. Home owners will have a chance to see first hand the latest in home and garden equipment such as chain saws, mowers and building supplies. "Each year we see more exhibitors adding machinery and products for non-farm home owners to their exhibits," says Harrington.

Ag Progress Days exhibitors include small and large-scale manufacturers and producers, breed associations, state and federal agencies and Pennsylvania far-

mers' organizations and cooperatives. Some exhibitors come from as far away as Florida, Texas, Oregon and Canada.

Many large-scale exhibitors have scheduled field demonstrations so visitors can make comparisons of machinery in action. Demonstrations are scheduled every hour from 10:30 to 3:15 each day of the three-day event as follows:

Corn chopping at 10:30 a.m.
Primary tillage at 12:45 p.m.
Mowing at 2:00 p.m.
Conservation planting at 11:30 a.m.

Silage bagging at 1:00 p.m.
Baling and handling at 3:15 p.m.

"Ag Progress Days is the only state-wide event that offers a full range of late model farm machinery demonstrations," says Paul Anderson, associate professor of

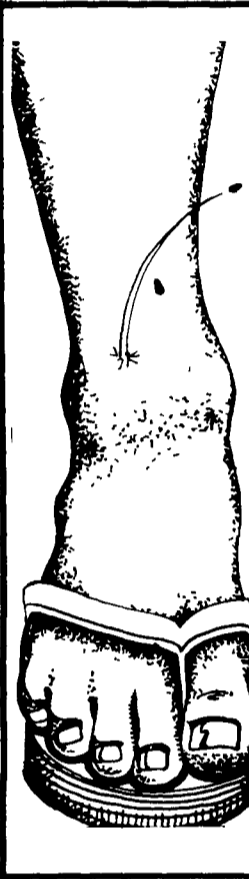
agricultural engineering and coordinator of field demonstrations.

"According to early information from machinery demonstrators this year, we'll see an emphasis on primary tillage equipment. We'll have silage dump wagons in action during the chopping demonstrations and we may have a couple of new hay handling pieces of equipment -- the windrow fluffers and intraverterers in particular -- during the hay baling and handling demonstrations. Chemical hay conditioners used as drying agents will also be on display. We've allocated small areas to be treated each day and application equipment will stay on site for discus-

sion," Anderson says.

"There is a trend toward more automated equipment in the new models," he continues. "Manufacturers are integrating computerization into their designs to improve operating efficiency, to make equipment operate better under a wider range of conditions and to improve safety features.

Ag Progress Days is held each year at the College of Agriculture's Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45. The gates are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking and admission are free.



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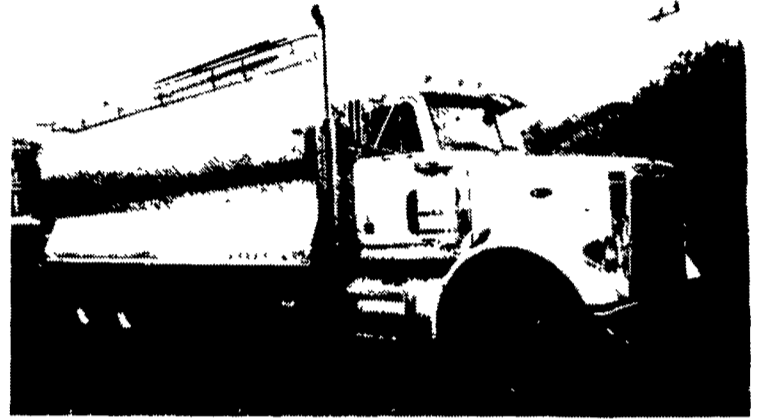
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