Agricultural Research Focus Of Ag Progress Days

UNIVERSITY PARK — Visitors to Ag Progress Days will see the results of 100 years of research by the state agricultural experiment station, highlighted in exhibits, a quiz show and a research time capsule.

Ag Progress Days is held at the Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45, August 18-20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

The theme of this year's Ag Progress Days is "The Agricultural Scientist - Working for a Better Tomorrow." It celebrates the centennial of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station (now part of the Office for Research in Penn State's College of Agriculture). The station was established on July 1, 1887, just months after Congress passed the Hatch Act, which funded experiment stations at each land-grant university. George W. Atherton, the president of Penn State, was part of a three-man committee that wrote and lobbied for the Hatch Act.

The research that resulted from these actions of a century ago will be featured by Penn State's College of Agriculture in the theme building on the Ag Progress Days site. Researchers will be on hand to demonstrate and discuss the ways they are working to improve agriculture. A college exhibit celebrating 100 years of agricultural research will accompany the scientists' exhibits.

An agricultural science quiz show called "SciQ" will give visitors a chance to win prizes such as cheese and ice cream from Penn State's Creamery, T-shirts and geraniums developed at Penn State. Get your free tickets or register to be a contestant at one of the information booths. Shows will run six times a day in the theme building.

Today's agricultural research will be symbolized for the future in the Agricultural Time Capsule, to be sealed at the end of Ag Progress Days and opened in 100 years. The capsule will contain objects symbolizing research in the College of Agriculture, along with documents explaining the research. It will also contain samples of items such as acid rain and preserved food for analysis in the future, and a laser disk produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During Ag Progress Days, the capsule and its contents will be on display in the theme building.

Visitors to Ag Progress Days can help to make history by bringing a family photograph to be placed in the time capsule. Contributors will be able to write a brief message to the future, to be included with their photograph. The first 100 photographs submitted each day will be accepted.

Research themes to be exhibited in the theme building are: growth hormone in meat animals; turfgrass research; acid rain research; tissue propagation; fresh vegetable processing and preservation; poultry physiology; cocoa research; computer vision systems; wood products; development and use of computerized expert systems; community economic profiles; farm finances; global agriculture; and satellite data and water quality.

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