

Lancaster Farming

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Ag Progress Celebrates What's New In Agriculture

BY PAT PURCELL

Ag Progress Days has traditionally been a time of fun and fellowship as thousands and thousands of members of the statewide farming community crowd the grounds at Rock Springs. It gives families an opportunity to enjoy a leisure day together while visiting with friends and making new friends. It is a fun day for every member of the family. There's lots of good food available, grown in Pennsylvania and every member of the family regardless of age cannot resist the temptation to climb into the cab of a brand new tractor. It's a time for the curious to investigate and ask questions. It is a time to learn.

However, on a more serious note, Ag Progress Days gives farmers an opportunity to see what is new in farming. And approximately 350 exhibitors were on hand to



The crowd on Main Street on Wednesday. A photo worth a thousand words.

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Computer Workshops Attracted Visitors

BY SALLY BAIR

Lancaster Co. Correspondent
ROCK SPRINGS — One of the more popular spots of Ag Progress Days this week was the youth tent where staff members of the Computer Division of Penn State's Ag Information Services were offering hands-on computer workshops for visitors.

This is the first time for the event, according to Tom Mincemoyer, manager of the division, and it proved to be highly popular. Indeed, on the first day of the

event, all the tickets for the four half-hour sessions were passed out by 11:00 a.m.

Mincemoyer said, "People get tired of demonstrations, and we thought they would like to try an activity. One objective is to get people a little more interested in computers. We were a little apprehensive about the amount of interest."

Jan Pruss, one of the staff people who worked with the public on the computer introduction, said, "We know there is a lot of interest

among students in schools, and there are many positive attitudes toward computers."

Pruss said the workshops attracted "every kind of person," from young to elderly, and from experienced to novices.

There were 12 MacIntosh computers set up for use by visitors, and Pruss said, "The MacIntosh is very user-friendly. Everyone can do something."

The fun part comes for participants when they are allowed to make a picture of their name on a wall. This is high-tech graffiti, Pruss says, adding, "We're always taught not to write on walls, but here they can do it."

In addition to the staff instructor, each workshop has three floaters, many of them participants in the recent Governor's School for Agriculture, who had learned to use computers during the five-week session.

Twelve computers were being used, and they were shared by at least two people, and sometimes several family members working together. In addition, Mincemoyer pointed out that there was always a group of people standing behind the roped off area, also listening to the computer instruction.

He added, "We are really pleased. It is a tricky thing to teach them something in 30 minutes." He said the workshops sometimes went over the allotted time and added that it would have been nice to have two hours.

Pruss said they were hoping people would be inspired to make more use of PenPages, a computer program available to anyone with a home computer and a modem. "It is a valuable tool for farmers, and it also has information on health and nutrition."



Matthew (age 6) and Mary (age 4) try out a big steering wheel. These children belong to John and Karen Morrow, Tyrone, in Blair County. They raise Guernseys.

Dairy Of Distinction Families Gather At Ag Progress

BY

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Managing Editor

A special fraternal gathering of farm families that had been named as winners in the Dairy of Distinction program gathered in the dairy/livestock tent Thursday morning. The presentation of the Dairy of Distinction personal award, the receiving of a color farm portrait and a friendly photograph of all the families present were features of the activity.

Stephen Spencer, Penn State University, who originally brought the Dairy of Distinction idea into

Pennsylvania, received a plaque in honor of his work for the program. Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff made the presentation.

Each district had supplied a photographer to take a farm photo of each winning farm. And Lancaster Farming presented an 11x14 color portrait to each farm family from the negative supplied by the districts.

Then everyone gathered up on the hill for a group photograph. Vice President Dan Baker said he thought the program had a very successful first year. (See Photos Page A-24)



Tom Mincemoyer, left, and Jan Pruss work with the MacIntosh computer, one of twelve used during Ag Progress Days for hands-on instruction. Staff members from the Computer Division of Ag Information Services conducted half hour workshops four times daily throughout the three-day event.