

Ag Progress Offers Machinery Demonstrations

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA. — Increasing concern over manure management brings a new feature to this year's farm machinery demonstrations at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, August 16, 17 and 18.

Each afternoon at 1:30 p.m. farmers will be able to see firsthand proper methods of calibrating manure spreaders and a demonstration of manure injection equipment. The calibration demonstration will include determining the nutrient content of the manure as well as determining how much manure to spread per acre.

"For the past several years Penn State has been developing methods to improve the efficient use of nutrients on Pennsylvania farms. Extension efforts have focused on the development of nutrient management plans that reduce nutrient loss and protect surface and groundwater supplies. The Ag Progress Days demonstrations of manure handling equipment add a new component to our manure management programs," says Dr. Paul Robillard, assistant professor of agricultural engineering.

Also new this year will be a greater emphasis on consumer information about purchasing and using farm machinery. "At each demonstration we plan to present a short commentary on the educational aspects of equipment being shown. This information should be helpful to someone appraising the capabilities of competitive brands of machinery," says Professor Paul Anderson, associate professor of ag engineering and chairman of the field machinery demonstrations committee. "Our emphasis this year is on tillage, forage handling and manure handling."

Ag Progress Days visitors will

have a chance to see and to ask questions about the latest farm equipment and agricultural products worth more than \$20 million. "The field demonstrations are a central part of the exhibition," says Anderson. "They give potential buyers the opportunity to see two or three competitive brands of farm equipment in operation under the same field conditions." Demonstrations are scheduled as follows:

- 10:30 a.m.- Corn Chopping
- 11:30 a.m.- Seedbed Preparation and Planting
- 1:30 p.m.- Manure Handling
- 2:15 p.m.- Mowing and Tedding
- 3:15 p.m.- Hay Harvesting

The corn chopping demonstration will include silage bagging. Seedbed preparation and planting demonstrations will feature primary and secondary tillage and conservation planting.

"There's always something new and different in the tillage area," says Anderson. "We are seeing a general trend toward reduced tillage practices and toward combining primary and secondary tillage into one piece of equipment. The question then becomes, 'how well can a planter work in that environment?'" Machinery demonstrations will help farmers answer that question for themselves. Penn State research shows that no-till or minimum-till planting methods save on soil erosion, time and labor.

Other field demonstrations are mowing and tedding equipment as well as hay harvesting machinery, including windrow inverters, windrow mergers, balers, bale wrappers and the application of drying agents. "We've seen a lot of interest in large square balers that pro-


duce rectangular bales in various sizes. These bales can be handled mechanically and are designed to fit standard transportation and storage facilities for commercial operations as well as on the farm," says Anderson.

Another area of interest is windrow and swath inverters. "The

windrow inverter is a simpler, cheaper machine than a combination swath and windrow inverter. Research comparing handling procedures drying rates and field losses of windrow inverters and conventional raking methods is now being conducted at Penn State," says Anderson.

The location and time of each demonstration will be published in the free Ag Progress Days Program that visitors can pick up throughout the grounds. Scheduling information also will be available at the main information booth. All demonstrations will be held at the same time every day.


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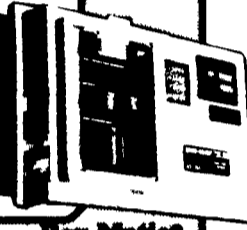


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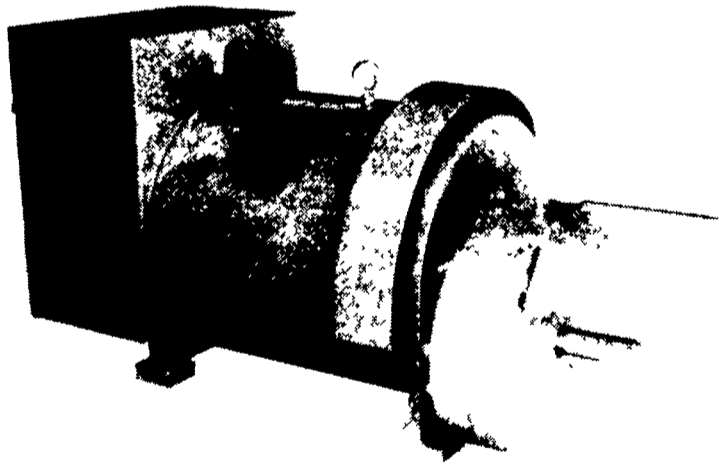


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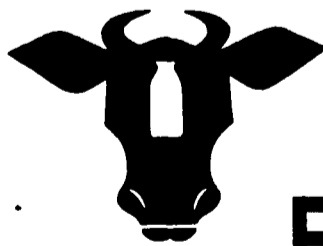
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