

Entomologist Celebrates 25 Years At Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — This year Gene Staub celebrates 25 years of service as a technician with the department of entomology at the College of Agriculture's Fruit Research Laboratory at Biglerville. He describes his quarter-century with Penn State as "wonderful!"

Staub has seen many changes at the fruit laboratory. "The work definitely has gotten more technical," he says. "It used to be primarily spraying, mowing and trimming the orchards. Now, we do experimental work year-round." Staub also has become more involved in the lab's research work through the years.

Staub always has worked in the fruit industry. While operating his father's fruit farm, he was hired by entomology professor Dean Asquith to prune trees on a part-time basis. Those duties eventually led to a full-time position. He currently he is one of two technicians working for Dr. Larry Hull, associate professor of entomology.

Until 1971, the Fruit Research Lab was located in a house in

Arendtsville. "That facility was adequate at the time," he says. As new technology was developed, however, the lab was moved to its present modern facilities near Biglerville. "The quality of the work has definitely improved at the new facility," Staub says.

Staub remembers that when he started, the entomology department did "mostly mite and codling moth experiments." Now, he notes, "we study all kinds of insects." Staub's job responsibilities include summertime maintenance of the orchards and assisting with spray experiments. In the winter, he prunes trees and assists with experiments in the laboratory.

"The most interesting part of

my job has been what I've learned from it all of these years," he says.

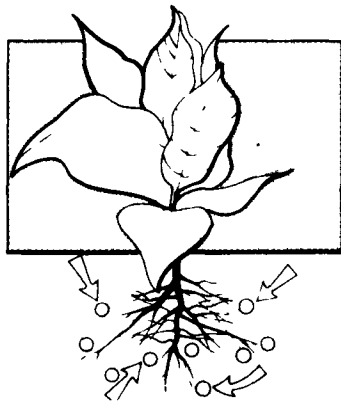
"I've learned a lot about entomology in 25 years."

After work hours, Staub enjoys working in the large garden which he and his wife, Ida, have at their home in Brysonia, a small community in northern Adams County. In addition to working around the house and hunting, he also keeps busy by staying in touch with the couple's two children, Wesley and Becky, and their two grandchildren. Staub has served on the church council of Trinity Lutheran Church in Arendtsville and was involved with local scouting programs for a number of years.



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