

Ephrata Agway Expands Product Lines



EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — An expanding local community has increasing demands on agricultural businesses, according to Henry Hoover, owner of an Agway Inc. store located in Ephrata.

And, in order "to better meet the needs of people in different ways," Hoover said he built a 6,200 square foot addition to display the business's diversified line of products.

Starting Thursday and running through Saturday, March 24, Hoover is holding an open house to better acquaint customers with the expanded line of products.

"We enlarged and expanded the lawn and garden, water treatment and pet food lines," Hoover said. "We did it for two reasons," he said.

According to Hoover, "The (store) area was too small. And I felt that, since the community is expanding with more urbanization, there are a lot more lawns and pets. And since our water quality is

not the best, there's been a big demand for water treatment systems — we do installing and servicing."

This is not the first expansion for the business, located just north of Ephrata on Rt. 322. The history of the store has been to expand, ever since Henry Hoover Sr. first started selling feed to local farmers for Eastern States during the 1930s.

In the 1940s, a warehouse and office were built in town along railroad tracks so boxcars could be unloaded right next to the warehouse. Then, almost 10 years after Eastern States merged with other feed companies to form Agway Inc., Hoover Jr. built the present store, warehouse and offices. A little later, a customized fertilizer blend plant was added, at the rear of the property.

Growth continued in 1980 with a 6,000 square foot warehouse built to west end of the building.

Now, the showroom floor and repair shop for lawn and garden equipment has been added.

Those who attend to open house will find that the Ephrata Agway will continue to offer a complete line of feeds, seeds, and other products for the commercial farmer, Hoover said. But now, with the greater depth in product lines, the store carries a items to accommodate the home gardener and landscaper, the pet owner (not only cats and dogs, but rabbits, parakeets, guinea pigs . . .), and those who need to care for their homes.

Refreshments are to be available during the open house and employees will be on hand to answer questions. Hoover said he is also going to have special pricing on certain items during the three-day open house.

"We now have everything needed to make things grow, as long as we have the rain," Hoover said.

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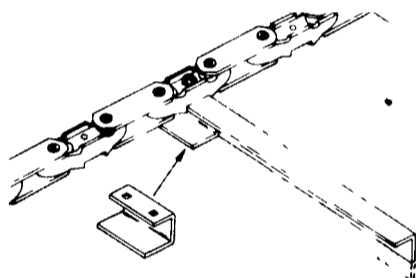
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