

Penn State Opens New Facility

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — State and federal officials have joined Penn State President Joab Thomas and College of Agriculture Dean Lamartine Hood to dedicate the new Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building that faces Shortlidge Road on the University Park campus.

"With the completion of this

building, we have enhanced instructional and research laboratory facilities for virtually every academic unit in the College," said Hood.

The \$24 million structure is the centerpiece of a \$42 million College of Agriculture facilities improvement program, funded jointly by the state and federal gov-

ernments and the university. Other components of the program are new dairy and poultry research centers, new and renovated greenhouses, and remodeled swine research facilities.

"We expect the state to release funds for construction of some of those remaining projects later this year," said James Starling, associate dean for administration. "These enhanced facilities will help us to attract and educate more top-notch undergraduate and graduate students, and many of our faculty for the first time will have appropriate laboratory resources to support a first-rate research and education program."

Ag Sciences and Industries is the new primary base of operations for the agronomy and entomology departments. The dairy and animal science and veterinary science departments also occupy space in the six-story edifice, which is connected to the main offices of those departments in Henning Building by a covered walkway.

Construction on the building began in early 1989. The 150,000-square-foot building contains a 202-seat auditorium/classroom; one 70-seat and two 15-seat classrooms; two computer equipped classrooms with 18 work stations; an undergraduate learning center; five teaching laboratories; 46 large and 35 small research labs; more than 145 offices for faculty, staff and graduate students; laboratory animal holding rooms and support facilities; seven conference rooms; specialized space for the land analysis laboratory in agronomy and the expert systems laboratory in entomology; and several other facilities.

Use Of Phosphate In Soils Varies

ATLANTA, Ga. — Phosphate fertilizers represent highly available phosphorus sources for crops.

However, when applied to the soil, they react with soil iron, aluminum, and calcium compounds to form compounds that are less water soluble and slowly available to plants.

The speed at which these undesirable reactions occur is a function of soil pH, clay content, and concentrations of iron, aluminum, and calcium.

According to Dr. Bob Thompson, Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) midsouth director, differences in efficiency and availability of various commercial phosphate fertilizers are small. Movement of all phosphate fertilizers in soil water is extremely limited. Because of the quick attachment of phosphate fertilizers to soil particles, erosion is a more serious threat to phosphorus losses than is leaching.

Best phosphate fertilizer use efficiency occurs when phosphorus is concentrated in soil bands, usually close to the seed at the time of planting, on soils testing low or

very low in available phosphorus, but not on soils testing medium or higher, where efficiency from broadcasting might be greater.

Dr. Larry Sanders, PPI Great Plains and southwest director, notes that three years of recent field studies in Kansas have provided good evidence of the importance of starter phosphorus for grain sorghum on acid, low phosphorus testing soils.

Dr. Ray Lamond and Dr. David Whitney of Kansas State University banded varying rates of a 7-21-7 liquid fertilizer in direct seed contact for grain sorghum. Yields were increased an average of 21 to 27 bushels per acre — yield increases that were comparable to wheat and corn under similar conditions.

Phosphorus "best management practices" for crops include building phosphorus soil tests to a high level, then applying maintenance applications by an easy and inexpensive method. University research has shown that high phosphorus availability is one of the critical components for high crop yields and profits.

Producers Not To Blame For Improper Food Preparation

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff told members of the Mid-Atlantic Poultry Health Council that egg producers are too often adversely affected when food preparers make mistakes.

"If food handlers make mistakes when preparing egg dishes and somebody gets sick, tracebacks sometimes point the blame at the farmer who provided the eggs," Wolff said. "I know of no other animal food product where farmers get blamed for problems that result from improper cooking or storage."

The council, made up of poultry health experts from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, concluded two days of meetings

here recently.

Wolff told council members that he hopes new egg refrigeration requirements will help encourage proper egg handling.

"Eggs are nutritious food that should be part of a healthy person's diet," Wolff said. "Like many other foods, they must be properly refrigerated and cooked before they are served."

Wolff, who serves as council chairman, said the council met to discuss cooperative efforts to regulate the poultry industry on a regional basis.

The council was formed by a joint agreement signed by Gov. Robert P. Casey and the governors of Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia in 1987.

Two Keystone Holsteins Enter Proving Program

PLAIN CITY, Ohio — Two Pennsylvania Holstein bulls were recently selected to enter the Select Sires Proving program.

Based on their outstanding pedigree, both bulls have been selected to join the ranks of 175 Holstein bulls from throughout the United States to enter the program in 1991.

7H4028 Russelldale Seavers-ET, a young sire bred by Ray E. Bicksler of Richland, has been chosen to enter Select Sires' Program for Genetic Advancement (PGA) sire sampling system. This Blackstar son is from three generations of dams that average 88 points and all have made over 24,000M and 1,080F. The Rotate dam of 7H4028 is heading for over 30,000M, 1,250F, and 1,000P this lactation.

7H4040 Swampy-Hollow Sprint-ET, a young sire bred by Joseph and Sandra J. Lusby of Atglen, has been chosen to enter Select Sires' Program for Genetic Advancement (PGA) sire sampling system.

7H4040 is a Mark son from a "Good Plus" (83) 2-year-old Ned Boy dam with over 25,900M, 1,100F, and 855P. The dam was sold for export and not reclassified, but was a good candidate to go "Very Good". Both the "Very Good" (88) Valiant grandam and "Excellent" (92-3E) Elevation great-grandam are very high solids cows with over 990F and 810P.

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