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Lancaster Farming

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Farmers, Educators, Agribusinesses Work To Make Ag Progress Days Successful

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—Billed as the largest outdoor agricultural event in the East, many persons and agribusinesses get involved in the production of Ag Progress Days. A wide range of programs—from equine education to food safety to alternative agricultural practices—will be featured at this 23rd annual exhibition sponsored by Penn State's College of Agriculture is scheduled for August 13 to 15.

filled, educational event for the entire family," said Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture. "Through numerous exhibits, farm machinery demonstrations, and tours of Penn State's research areas, visitors will have the chance to see the important role agriculture plays in our society."

Held at the university's 1,500-acre Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs near State College, the
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"Ag Progress Days is a fun-

Drought Will Not Affect Ag Progress Days

ROCKSPRING (Center Co.)—The drought that has wreaked havoc with agricultural production in central Pennsylvania this summer will not adversely affect Penn State's Ag Progress Days according to Dr. Joseph Harrington, general manager of the exposition.

"We don't expect the drought to have any impact on the event," Harrington said.

Harrington says machinery demonstration areas and seed company display plots are the Ag Progress Days attractions most dependent on healthy field crops. And despite the nearly 6-inch precipitation shortfall in Centre County so far this year, those crops are more than adequate for planned activities.

"The corn in the demonstration areas isn't as high as we might like, but it looks pretty good," says Harrington. "The exhibitors' corn plots were irrigated, and the hay alfalfa used for machinery demonstrations is a deep-rooted perennial that gets sub-soil moisture."

He says although the recent dry spell has affected crops at the Ag Progress Days site, the most critical time for corn growth was in early June when rain was more plentiful.

"We need rain, but maybe not as badly as other areas of the state," Harrington says. "And we're raising these crops for demonstration purposes, not for high yield, so we can use different management techniques than farmers use."

Hay Finding, Selling Service To Be Offered

However, if you're a farmer who has suffered crop losses as a result of the drought, help is available in locating appropriate forage for livestock feed.

Penn State's College of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council are offering

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Machinery exhibits, above, and field demonstrations are scheduled to be part of the 23rd Ag Progress Days to be held at Rockspring in Centre County next week. More than 250 commercial exhibitors will set up \$20 million worth of equipment for viewing at the three day event.



Michelle High, left, reigns as both Lancaster County Poultry Queen and Pennsylvania Poultry Queen. High and Alternate Poultry Queen Marlene Enck were crowned at the Poultry Pageant on August 2. Turn to page B14 for the pageant story.

State Ag Budget Called Best Ever

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—Pennsylvania may be looking at the largest tax increase in history, but most agriculture people involved with forming the \$13.9 billion state budget said they were pleased.

Except for certain things.

In the 1991-92 budget, approved August 4, the majority of agriculturally related state programs have received spending allocations equal to, or higher than, 1990-91 levels.

However, there are two areas which have received significant cuts—the state Animal Health Commission and the Department of Agriculture (PDA).

Gov. Robert Casey received bipartisan criticism this week for his veto of \$1 million in funds for the Animal Health Commission—a commission Casey heralded as his effort to strengthen support for the state's leading business.

With the cut, the commission is targeted to receive \$2.91 million.

Also, the PDA had its operating budget reduced from last year's \$18.143 million to \$17.902 million. Last year's PDA operating budget was called "austere" by department officials.

Also in the state budget spending plan are a number of line item allocations for agricultural programs which do not yet exist.

And while the spending side of the budget appears to be settled,

the same can not be said of the tax plan.

Because of vagueness in the wording, some state officials said that elements of the tax plan may hurt rural Pennsylvanians more than urban residents.

Furthermore, Gov. Casey assailed the tax plan (which his staff originally created and he signed into law) claiming legislators slipped in "loopholes" which unfairly benefit the wealthy, according to an Associated Press report. His comments came on the heels of sharp criticism from legislators for his veto cuts of \$46 million, which according to numerous sources, he had agreed not to do.

The \$46 million cut includes the \$1 million taken from the Animal Health Commission.

In early reaction to the budget, Steve Crawford, executive director for the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, said he was pleased with most of the budget.

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