

Ag Progress Days

(Continued from Page A1)

three-day event attracts tens of thousands of people each year.

Ag Progress Days will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, August 13 and 15, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14.

This year's theme, "Ag Science Touches Your Life," will highlight many of the ways that agriculture directly or indirectly affects our daily lives.

Ag Progress Days is one of the largest outdoor showcases of agricultural research and technology in the East. More than 250 commercial exhibitors will show and demonstrate approximately \$20 million worth of agricultural equipment.

The event also features tours of research farms and conservation education areas; exhibits and presentations by Penn State faculty on topics such as sustainable agriculture, international agriculture, food safety, mushroom production and composting, nutrient management, forest management, and the conversion of forage to food and fiber products; a working computer classroom; a museum full of antique home and farm implements; landscape, lawn, and garden advice; information on how to start a small business; and more.

New this year is an equine educational program. The program includes breed exhibitions, handling and training clinics, riding demonstrations, and horseshoeing and tack displays.

Breed exhibitions are scheduled for 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. on

Wednesday. A handling and training clinic led by Ward Studebaker, Penn State horse farm manager, will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Therapeutic and 4-H champion riding demonstrations are scheduled Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. The Thorncroft Mainstreamers Drill Team will perform at 6 p.m. Wednesday and again at 10 a.m. on Thursday. Miniature and draft horse exhibitions also are scheduled at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

In the exhibit building theater, educational videos produced by the College of Agriculture are scheduled to be shown. The theater also will be the site of a Horse Bowl on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a Dairy Bowl on Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Wednesday by 7 p.m. experts from across the nation will participate in a teleconference on the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease. The workshop will be broadcast on cable TV stations in Pennsylvania and by satellite to other states.

Ongoing exhibits are fun and educational. In the college exhibits building, visitors can trace how cows and sheep convert forage into the food and fiber products we depend upon for our health and economy. An artificial rumen — the large compartment of a ruminant's stomach — has been constructed to help visitors understand this process.

Sustainable agriculture will be a major focus in the exhibits building, with a time line tracing historic milestones of alternative farming practices and displays high-

lighting new developments for the future.

Visitors can learn more about production efficiency and environmental protection at the alternative practices exhibit, which is cosponsored by the Crop Management Association. College of Agriculture faculty will be available to discuss new practices and possible solutions to management problems.

Mushroom production and composting will be the focus of another exhibit. The displays will look at how Penn State researchers are helping the state's mushroom industry, which ranks number one in the nation, recycle spent compost for crop production and environmental applications.

The College Exhibits building also will feature interactive displays on food safety and an exhibit on forest management. The College of Agriculture's international programs will be highlighted, with emphasis on a new project to help Polish farmers adjust to a free-market economy.

At the micro-enterprise exhibit, emphasis will be on helping prospective entrepreneurs get a head start on success. Visitors can talk with small business owners who have launched their own enterprises, and gain information about the College of Agriculture's small business management educational programs.

Visitors can get timely advice when they "ask the experts" in the areas of landscape, lawn, and garden; crop and soil science; and dairy and livestock production. College of Agriculture faculty and cooperative extension agents will be available to answer general questions and deal with specific problems.

Bus tours to the research farms always have been a highlight of Ag Progress Days. A popular new addition three years ago — the special topics research tours — will return. Tuesday's tour will focus on ways to maximize corn and small grain production in an ecologically sound manner. On Wednesday, visitors will travel to the University Park Campus for a tour of the dairy production facilities and forage pastures that are managed under an intensive rotational system. Thursday's tour will highlight the latest research on integrated vegetable production.

The special topics tours will run twice a day at 10 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. General research tours and soil and water conservation tours are scheduled throughout the day.

Young people will enjoy the computer classroom located in the Youth Building, with introductory lessons on the Apple Macintosh computer running throughout the day. The Youth Building also will feature information on career planning, college admission, the 4-H program, and the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences. Nearby will be the wildlife exhibit from the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center,

with some of Pennsylvania's many animal species.

Machinery demonstrations are scheduled throughout the day. Seven demonstrations each day will feature tillage and planting, corn chopping, silage bagging, round baling of high moisture alfalfa, rectangular baling and handling, round bale handling and wrapping, and mowing.

At the Meating Place, faculty and staff from the College of Agriculture will give meat cutting and cooking demonstrations, explaining which cuts are low in fat and preparing the meat different ways. Visitors can sample the results.

There also is plenty of food to eat, served by local agricultural and community service organizations.

Penn State's Ag Progress Days features more than 500 acres of educational and commercial exhibits, tours, and machinery demonstrations. It is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45, August 13-15. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, with extended hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission and parking are free.



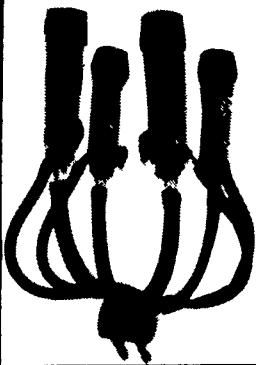
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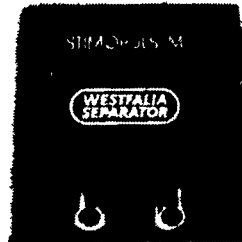
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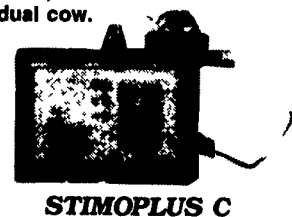
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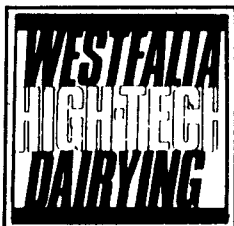


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