

# Penn State College Of Ag Leaders Tour State

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — To help develop research and education programs that meet the current needs of both urban and rural residents, administrators from Penn State's College of Agriculture visited several sites in eastern Pennsylvania this week.

The leaders gathered firsthand information about the challenges and problems facing citizens in diverse areas of the commonwealth. They will use the information to develop relevant research projects and to strengthen educational and technical assistance efforts.

"Our college was founded in the 1860s to meet the needs of a rural, largely farm-based population," said Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, dean of the college. "Today, with 85 percent of our population liv-

ing in towns and cities, we need to continually evaluate our relevance to all citizens.

"Our role in urban areas should be the same as our role in rural areas—helping people solve pressing local problems. We want to make a greater effort to serve both groups, and this tour will help us learn more about the needs of people in both areas."

College leaders got an on-the-job look at the diversity of the state's agricultural industry as they visited dairy, poultry, vegetable, tree and turf farms and a food processing company, veneer plant, veal operation, winery, urban garden and Supercupboard site.

They met with local leaders in Berks and Bucks counties and discussed the challenges that accom-

pany rapid development, particularly agricultural land preservation.

In the Philadelphia area, they observed youth development, nutrition education and urban gardening programs in action.

They met with faculty and administrators at the Berks Campus and discussed undergraduate programs in food science and horticulture. They also learned about the vocational agricultural program at Conrad Weiser High School.

The administrators also visited Penn State's research farm in Landisville, Lancaster Co., and cooperative extension officers in several counties.

Penn State has cooperative extension offices in every county in the state. The university's



Comparing poultry notes are left to right, John Schwartz, Lancaster County agent; LeRoy Esbenshade, poultry farmer; and Lamartine Hood, dean of the college.



Judy and LeRoy Esbenshade, Manheim, center, explained how they process eggs to the administrators from Penn State's College of Agriculture. The farm stop in Lancaster County was one of several sites in eastern Pennsylvania visited by the administrators on tour this week.

community-based educational network is supported by approximately 300 county extension agents, 130 paraprofessionals and an estimated 50,000 volunteers.

Extension's educational programs are research-based and are developed to help people deal with current economic, social and environmental issues in an informed and positive way. More than 130 Penn State faculty members and research associates in the

College of Agriculture conduct studies that support extension programs.

Academic programs in the College of Agriculture include agricultural and biological engineering, agricultural education, agricultural economics and rural sociology, dairy, animal and poultry sciences, agronomy, horticulture, plant pathology, entomology, forest resources and food science.

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