

SPECIAL REPORT

FIELD CROP ACTIVITIES AT AG PROGRESS DAYS

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Have you been troubled by a new weed or poor spots in your corn or other crops?

If you have, make it a point to stop by the "Ask the Experts" booth in the Crops Tent at Ag Progress Days this year.

The odds are that you're not the only one who has this problem and

one of the crop specialists manning the booth may be able to help you solve that problem once and for all.

This year, specialists from both agronomy and entomology will be on hand to deal with your field crop questions and problems. Even if you don't have crop problems, stop by and share some of your experiences from the year.

You'll find us discussing topics such as how the canola crop turned out this year, what wheat quality was like around the state, and what everyone's projections are for the corn crop this year.

A new feature this year in the tent will be the Agronomy Quiz

Board, which will test your agronomic knowledge with some challenging field crop questions. Also in the tent will be the 1992 Pennsylvania Hay Show and a display of more than 40 of some of the most troublesome weeds in Pennsylvania.

If you're interested in seeing some of the crop research that's taking place, you may want to join the Field Crops Research Tour, which will leave the corn crib at 10 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, August 20.

On this tour you'll visit some of the conservation tillage research on corn being conducted by Dr. James Hamlett. Hamlett is documenting pesticide and soil losses from a variety of conservation tillage practices, including the slit tillage program developed by Lancaster county farmer Herb Myers.

Another part of the tour will include a visit to soybean management research being conducted by Dr. Elwood Hatley. This research has involved new varieties, planting dates, and plant populations,

increasing yields in this crop.

The final stop on the tour will encompass some of the management and variety evaluation work being done on corn silage. Here we'll share some of the results of the research in my own program,

where we've been evaluating how varieties, harvest dates, and plant populations interact to influence the quality of corn silage. We'll also take a look at some tropical, open-pollinated, and flint varieties of corn.

Penn State Offers Swine Records Program

HOLIDAYSBURG (Blair Co.) — A renewed emphasis on swine production records is being supported by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Pork Profit Planner is a record-keeping system developed to assist swine producers in analyzing financial and production performance. Every six months program participants fill out input forms based on production records.

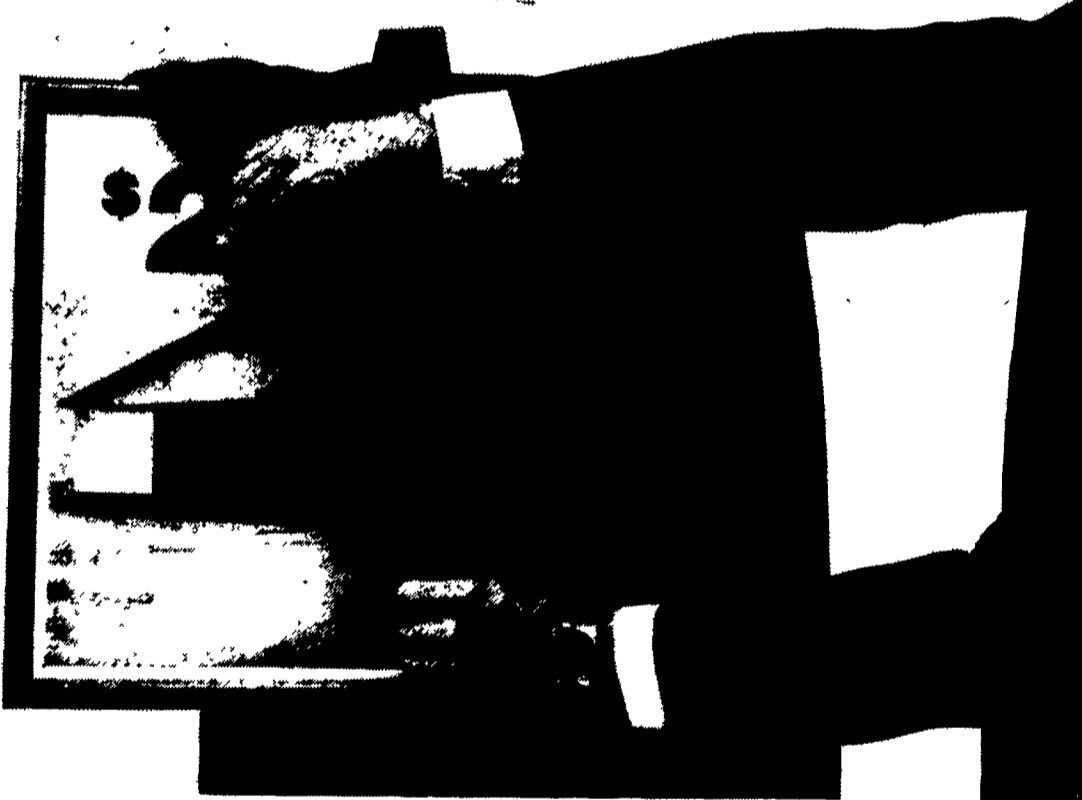
Farm management specialists provide efficiency and profitability measures which can point out problem areas in the farming operation.

The records analysis program is not new, but interest declined after supporting faculty left Penn State.

Livestock farm management specialist Steve Ford is available to support and educate swine producers in their farm financial management.

Interested producers can contact Penn State Cooperative Extension in Blair County at (814)695-5541 ext. 210 for more details on program participation.

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