

# Equine Program Showcases PA Horse Industry

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — The role of the horse in education, therapy and agriculture will be displayed during the Equine Educational Program at Ag Progress Days.

"Through various demonstrations, displays and exhibitions, we hope to show how important horse industry is to Pennsylvania agri-

culture," says Pat Comerford, extension horse program coordinator in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Comerford says the equine events also will highlight Penn State's teaching, extension and youth programs. "Last year's inaugural Ag Progress Days horse

program was a tremendous success," she notes. "The popularity of the event was an indication of the horse's value and versatility as a teaching tool."

A variety of activities will take place in the horse arena at the Ag Progress Days site. Visitors will see the genetic diversity of horses during breed exhibitions at 10:00 a.m. daily, 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday. In all, more than 20 breeds--ranging from miniature horses to powerful draft horses--will be displayed.

Proper handling and training techniques will be demonstrated by Ward Studebaker, Penn State horse farm manager, during daily clinics at 1:30 p.m.

On Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., a therapeutic riding demonstration will be held, highlighting Pennsyl-

vania's Horseback Riding for the Handicapped 4-H program. "Learning to ride and handle horses builds confidence and self-esteem," says Ben Nolt, coordinator of the therapeutic riding program. "It's heartwarming to see young people who are physically or mentally challenged perform on horseback."

Pennsylvania's 4-H champion riders also will perform Wednesday afternoon.

Several special events are planned between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Wednesday. Following the flag presentation by Centre County 4-H horse clubs, the Thorncroft Mainstreamers Drill Team of Chester County will perform. A freestyle reining exhibition, in which horses are put through maneuvers to music, will be followed by exhibitions of

draft horse hitches and carts.

The equine exhibits tent next to the horse arena will feature numerous informative displays. Planned exhibits include Penn State's Quarter Horses and teaching programs, 4-H and therapeutic riding programs, horseshoeing and tack and a display on the horse in the medieval agriculture. Video and 4-H public speaking presentations will highlight equine education and careers as well as various production, management and training practices.

This year's equine program will be dedicated to Dr. Thomas L. Merritt, Penn State professor emeritus of animal science, in recognition of his 32 years of service to equine education. Merritt will be honored with a special presentation during Wednesday evening's events in the horse arena.

## Pesticide Certification Workshops Offered

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — "How can I identify weeds in my field?" "What's the most appropriate spray equipment for my farm?" "How can I find out whether I have pesticide residues in my soil, water or crops?"

Visitors to Ag Progress Days can get answers to these and other questions by attending pesticide certification presentations, a new feature at the event. At the same time, they can earn up to three pesticide update credits necessary to maintain a state pesticide applicator license.

"This is the first time we've offered certification credits at Ag Progress Days," says Dr. Winand K. Hock, professor of plant pathology and director of the Pesticide Education Program in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "If there's a lot of demand for this type of training, we'll expand the program next year."

The presentations will begin at 10 a.m. each morning in the College Exhibits Building theatre at the Ag Progress Days site. Space is available for 50 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

Three specialists will give presentations on pesticide-related

topics. Officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will be on hand to register the participants and award credits for attendance. Each session is worth one pesticide certification credit. Dr. William S. Curran, assistant professor of agronomy, will open the program with a discussion of weed life cycles and methods of identifying weed species.

At 11 a.m., Dr. Donald Daum, professor of agricultural engineering, will examine factors that must be considered when choosing and using spray nozzles for pesticide application. At noon, Norman Conrad, associate extension agent in Union County, will discuss methods of testing for pesticide residues.

In addition to the morning program, visitors to Ag Progress Days' evening hours on Wednesday can earn two more certification credits by attending a session on pesticide handling for homeowners, at 6 p.m. in the College Exhibit Building theatre.

Scott Harrison, pesticide education coordinator at Penn State, and Kerry Hoffman, Penn State project assistant, will discuss safety concerns for people who use pesticides for gardens and other household applications.

### TRI-PLY CEILINGS



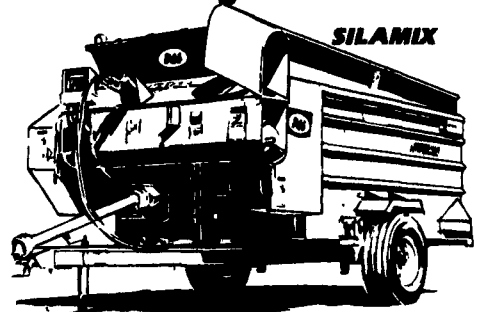
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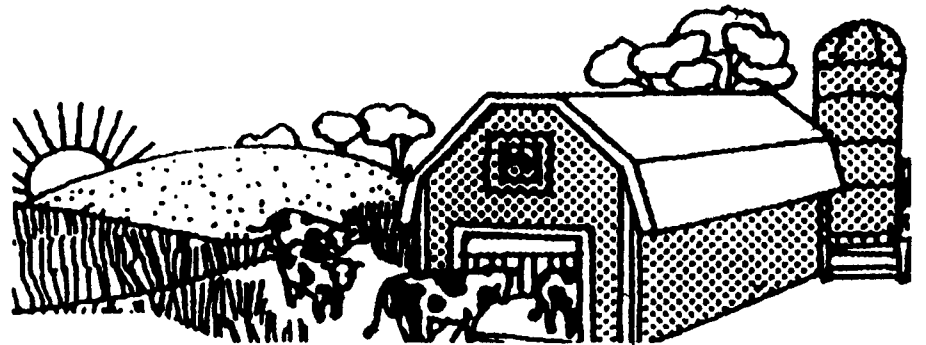


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