

Livestock Exhibits Highlight Latest Research

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—Milk and meat are staples in most Americans' diets. But the farmers who put steaks on our grills and milk in our coffee face challenges that range from managing their herds efficiently to protecting their animals' health. Visitors to Penn State's Ag Progress Days can learn about new

developments in animal agriculture by touring the Dairy and Livestock Tent, which features educational exhibits and demonstrations by businesses, breed associations, and Penn State. The event will be held August 17-19. "The exhibits explore health, reproduction, nutrition and environmental concerns related to

cows, sheep, swine and other animals," said Dr. Michael O'Connor, professor of dairy and animal science and coordinator for the Dairy and Livestock Tent. His exhibit will detail Penn State research in dairy herd reproductive management. Many other College of Agricultural Sciences faculty and staff

will be on hand to share their research results and to answer questions related to livestock production. Lisa Holden, project associate in dairy and animal science, will discuss Dairy-MAP, a series of workshops that help producers apply general management techniques to the business of dairy farming.

Dr. Daniel Hagen, associate professor of animal science, will explain new techniques in swine reproductive management, including oocyte, or egg cell, manipulation. Visitors can see a videotape depicting a pig embryo's development and examine swine eggs under a microscope.

Dr. Lorraine Sordillo, assistant professor of veterinary science and head of Penn State's Center for Mastitis Research, will detail the center's work to combat the costliest disease of dairy cattle. This interdisciplinary effort includes basic and applied research projects aimed at slashing mastitis' economic costs and thwarting the disease itself. Other faculty and staff from the veterinary science department will discuss the causes of bovine abortions, mastitis and intestinal diseases in livestock.

Dr. Kenneth Kephart, associate professor of animal science, will review swine manure pit ventilation options. Dr. Lowell Wilson, professor of animal science, will detail current Penn State veal production research, and Dr. Jud

Heinrichs, associate professor of dairy science, will discuss heifer growth and management. Dr. Mary Beth Bennett, project associate in dairy and animal science, will discuss animal welfare research and education projects. Dr. John Comerford, associate professor of animal science, will explain management techniques for dairy beef calves. A team of Penn State agricultural economists will offer information about the economics of intensive grazing, current research on small farm management, and dairy marketing techniques. They also will demonstrate the FINPACK financial management system.

Learn About Backyard Composting At Ag Progress

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—If dandelions or slugs are getting the best of your lawn and garden this year, you may want some expert advice.

You can learn more about making your garden healthy by visiting the Landscape, Lawn and Garden Tent at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, August 17-19.

This year the tent will feature displays on backyard composting. "Visitors will see examples of what can be composted and the correct way to construct a compost pile," said Dr. J. Robert Nuss,

Penn State professor of ornamental horticulture and coordinator of the Landscape, Lawn and Garden Tent. "There also will be demonstrations several times each day to illustrate proper composting procedures and techniques."

In addition, Penn State faculty and county extension agents will be available for most of the day to give expert advice on plant and insect problems.

"We'll answer any question that a homeowner, gardener or grower might have," said Nuss. "Experts will talk with visitors about indoor

and outdoor plants, turf, flowers, tree fruit and small fruit." Visitors may bring in samples for the experts to examine.

"To get a clear idea of the problem, we need a large sample in good condition," said Nuss. "Don't just bring in a dead leaf." He advises visitors to bring samples that represent various stages of the problem, and to bring insects in jars, since damage alone may be hard to diagnose. Samples can be disposed of at the tent.

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 Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45, August 17-19. 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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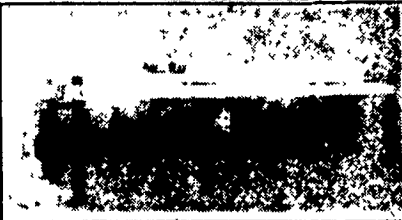
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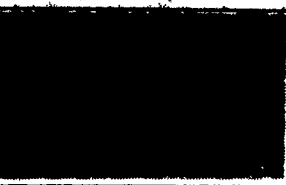


"This year we ran the Aer-Way over half the land where we had harvested corn silage. We then spread between 4,000-5,000 gallons of liquid manure per acre and diked the seed bed to prepare for small grains. We were absolutely amazed at the difference when we used the Aer-Way and spreading. My non-Aer-Wayed ground was diked 3 to 4 times and still wasn't so good. I would recommend the Aer-Way to other farmers as it softens the ground and lets rain and manure penetrate instead of running off."
W.W. Gardner Jr.
Kenwood Farm, Orange, Virginia

"Earlier this spring, I used the Aer-Way implement and Aer-Way chain harrow on my rolling pastureland. This was done to open up the ground to get water into the sloping grasslands. At the same time I pulled the Aer-Way chain harrow to scatter the cattle manure around. Aer-Wayed ground held the moisture better and we got thicker and taller regrowth where we ran the machine."
Dr. Rex Wilhelm, D.V.M., Stuart, Iowa



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