

# Ag Progress Days Reaches Out To Homeowners, Too

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Traditionally, Penn State's Ag Progress Days has been geared to high production agriculture. While many aspects will stay the same this year, the event will cater to a larger crowd also — the homeowner.

"We're looking for a bigger show, more diversification into a wider range of interests for not only the ag community, but for the general public as well," said Robert Oberheim, manager of the event.

Ag Progress Days is scheduled August 17-19 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center on Rt. 45, nine miles southwest of State College. Admission and parking are free.

The manager of the three-day event said events new to this year are craft exhibitors, including quilting, woodworking, pottery, and more; a petting zoo; information about home composting projects; and expanded youth programs.

The theme of this year's Ag Progress Days, "Conserving Our Resources Through Science," emphasizes the need to conserve and protect natural resources such as soil and water, said Oberheim. Production agriculture exhibits and presentations will stress conservation compliance methods and management.

New field demonstrations include row crop cultivation, deep



**Robert Oberheim**

tillage, sprayer calibration, and nutrient management (including manure spreader calibration).

Also new this year is a full-service composting pad demonstration utilizing three different materials, including animal manure and bedding, leaves and grass clippings, and food processing waste. Information will also be provided on composting for the home owner.

The College Exhibits Building will focus on the environmental importance of protecting water quality and quantity. Displays will include water conservation devices for the home, a groundwa-

ter flow model, information on proper well construction, maps of well fields and precipitation measurement, and the affects of farm nutrient management on water quality.

Last year, according to Oberheim, about 40,000 visited the Ag Progress Days event, of which, according to surveys, more than 60 percent are involved directly in ag-related services. This year, Oberheim predicts more than 50,000 will arrive for the event, because of the efforts the last few years to open it up to the general public.

A strong emphasis is placed on the equine programs running Tuesday to Thursday, according to Oberheim. The programs will feature breed clinics, handling and training of horses, demonstrations of therapeutic riding, and side saddle demonstrations.

General research tours, providing an overview of Penn State agricultural research, are offered every 20 minutes beginning at 10 a.m. each day. Special topics research tours run twice a day, at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m., said Oberheim.

New tours this year include a 90-minute tour of current research in tree fruit production on Tuesday, with a bus to the horticulture research farm; a two-hour tour on Wednesday to the Penn State Campus to observe the Penn State dairy beef and grazing research program; and a 90-minute tour on Thursday to observe research into water quality programs.

## Susquehanna Co. Team Retains Dairy Cattle Judging Title

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Teams from Susquehanna and Butler counties were victorious at the 1993 Pennsylvania 4-H Achievement Days Dairy Cattle Judging contests held at University Park on July 28.

In the senior division, Susquehanna won the competition for the third consecutive year with a score of 1,455 out of a possible 1,650. Team members were David Harvatine, Josh Harvatine, and Steve Pavelski.

Placing second with a score of 1,441 was Lebanon County's team of Andrew Bicksler, Jesse Bomgardner, Brent Pierce, and Kraig Sellers.

Completing the top five teams were Wayne, Somerset, and Mifflin counties.

In oral reasons, Susquehanna placed first, followed by Wayne and Lebanon. Susquehanna County is to represent Pennsylvania at the North American Dairy Cattle Judging Contest to be held in Louisville, Ky., in November.

The high senior division individual with 515 points out of a possible 550 was David Fava of Washington County, followed closely by Matthew Day of Cumberland (511), Joe Stitt of Blair (509), and Carrie Bryant of Wayne (509).

These four individuals are to represent Pennsylvania at the Pennsylvania All-American Invitational Judging Contest at Harrisburg and the National 4-H Judging Contest in Madison.

Placing fifth through tenth were Josh Harvatine; Kraig Sellers; Joy Hess, Adams; Rebecca Kelly, Blair; Andrew Bicksler; and Charles Johnson, Somerset. In oral rea-

sons, Day placed first, followed by Stitt, Sellers, Fava, and Bryant.

In the junior division, Butler County's team of Jason Kennedy, Mandy Williams, Melissa Wilson, and Julie Wilson was victorious. Butler scored 1,156 out of a possible 1,350 points.

In second with a score of 1,156 was the Armstrong County team of Mike Kimmel, Sarah McKee, Jason Ruffaner, and Beckie Ruffaner. Somerset placed third, followed by Lycoming and Wayne.

The high individual in the junior division was Brian Deal of Somerset with a score of 408 out of 450.

Second through tenth were Justin Burdette, Franklin (407); Jason Kennedy (405); Jeremy Daubert, Clinton (402); Jarrod Burleigh, Wayne (400); Ben Miller, Somerset; Melissa Wilson; Jason Ruffaner; Chris Connelly, Centre; and Beckie Ruffaner.

Winning top honors in reasons was the Somerset team of Brian Deal, Ricki Johnson, and Ben Miller, followed by Butler, Ly-

coming, and Centre. The high reasons individual was Butler's Melissa Wilson, followed by Ben Miller and Amanda Fraley of Lycoming County.

In the quiz bowl competition, Somerset County edged Columbia for the title. Members of the winning team included Desiree Hillegas, Jason Baughman, Jon Smiley, and Natalie Welch. Columbia's second-place team was made up of Amanda Hemsarh, Duane Ritter, Fletcher Farr, and Sherry Shuman.

Other teams receiving blue awards included Lebanon and Montour counties. Somerset is to represent Pennsylvania at the North American Invitational Quiz Bowl to be held in November.

Approximately 90 contestants participated in the judging contests, and 11 teams competed in the quiz bowl. Jersey cattle for the judging contest were supplied by Craig and Susan Wicker of Centre Hall, and John Rodger's Plum Bottom Farm furnished the Ayrshire class. Penn State University provided Holsteins for the contest.

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