

Equine Industry More Than Horseplay

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)— You see them grazing in farmers' fields, or pulling weights at the county fair. But you might not realize that horses are big business.

Pennsylvania's horse industry adds an estimated \$4 billion to the state's economy, according to a recent study by Penn State and the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Visitors to Penn State's Ag Progress Days, August 17-19, can see a variety of these magnificent animals in action by attending the Equine Educational Program. The event will feature demonstrations, exhibitions, clinics and displays highlighting the role of the horse in agriculture, health, recreation and education.

"Horses contribute to our quality of life in several ways," said Pat Comerford, extension horse program coordinator in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "They provide recreational and educational opportunities for thousands of Pennsylvanians.

"But the industry also provides more than 7,500 jobs and generates millions of dollars in econom-

ic activity and tax revenue through the sale of horses, feed, tack and other goods and services."

The study showed that total equine inventory in Pennsylvania in 1990 was about 170,000 head, valued at \$620 million. The total value of equine-related land, fencing and facilities was more than \$2.9 billion, and other equipment and supplies were worth 370 million. Horse owners made \$428 million in equine-related expenditures and paid more than \$15 million in taxes.

In addition to their economic value, horses play an important role in education, recreation and therapy. Thousands of 4-H youth and adult 4-H volunteers participate in horse programs statewide, and Pennsylvania has one of the largest therapeutic riding programs in the country.

"Animal-assisted therapy is a rapidly expanding field," said Ben Nolt, coordinator of 4-H therapeutic riding at Penn State. "Horseback riding can help people with disabilities to develop muscle control, confidence and self-esteem." A therapeutic riding demonstra-

tion will be held at Ag Progress Days on Wednesday, August 18 at 2:30 p.m.

The Equine Educational Program also will feature several daily breed clinics, daily handling and training clinics at 1:30 p.m., and an equine health management workshop on Thursday, August 19 at 2:30 p.m. An historic, turn-of-the-century freight wagon, pulled by a team of mighty Percheron draft horses, will be on display all three days.

Special activities will be held during Ag Progress Days extended hours on Wednesday. At 6

p.m., a dedication ceremony will honor Richard C. Ely, Somerset County 4-H horse program volunteer and co-founder of the Pennsylvania Council on Horseback Riding for the Handicapped. That will be followed by various exhibitions, including a sidesaddle demonstration and crowd-pleasing draft horse hitch.

The Equine Exhibits Tent will feature displays and presentations showcasing Penn State's Quarter Horses and teaching program, careers, 4-H and therapeutic riding programs, horseshoeing, tack,

feeds, various breeds and the horse in medieval agriculture.

Penn State's Ag Progress Days features more than 500 acres of displays, tours and demonstrations to interest young and old alike. It is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call toll-free (800) PSU-1010.

Ag Dealers Extend Helping Hand

ST. LOUIS — The Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) announced recently a campaign to raise money for the American Red Cross to help support flood victims in the rural Midwest. Each dollar generated by the ARA effort will be matched by the Agricultural Group of Monsanto Company up to \$1 million.

ARA is asking for support to help meet the challenge of Mon-

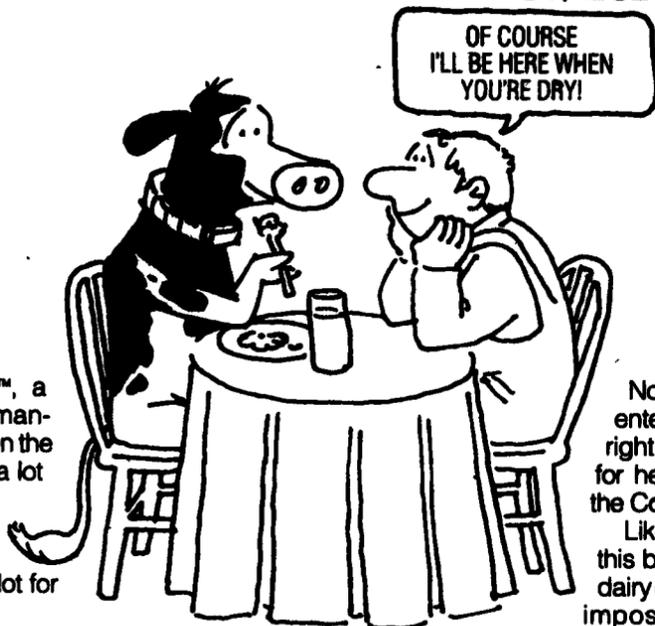
santo's matching contribution fund. Contributions can be made to the Agricultural Retailers Association - Flood Relief, 339 Consort Drive, Manchester, Missouri, 63011. ARA in turn will present a check to the American Red Cross at their "Total Management Team '93" summer conference in St. Louis August 9-10.

"The flood of '93 will have a devastating effect on the agricul-

tural industry that will be felt for some time," said Paul Kindinger, president and chief executive officer of ARA. "We want the ag dealers across the country to be given the opportunity to help the farmers, dealers, and others in the Midwest," he said, "dealers helping others in their time of need, that's what it is all about."

The Agricultural Retailers Association is a non-profit organization that serves informational and educational needs of retail farm supply dealers, nationwide. It also provides representation in Washington, DC, concerning regulatory and legislative issues.

**Give every one of your cows
100 percent of your attention
at feeding time.
Impossible?
Not for the Commander.**



Universal's Commander™, a computer-driven feed management system, has taken the word "impossible" out of a lot of things in dairying.

Feed inside and outside with different rations at the same time. Impossible? Not for the Commander.

Make sure dry cows in the dry lot get exactly the right feed early or late in their dry period. Impossible? Not for the Commander.

No matter which stall she enters, your cow gets the right feed in the right amount for her. Impossible? Not for the Commander.

Like to know more about this breakthrough in feeding dairy cows? Well, one thing is impossible for the Com-

mander: it can't ask your dealer for more information. You'll have to do that yourself... and the sooner the better.

AGWAY SERVICE CENTER
E. College Ave.
Pleasant Gap, PA
1-800-533-3866

AGWAY DAIRY SERVICE
Route 866
Curryville, PA
814-793-2167

AGWAY DAIRY SERVICE
409 B. Grant St.
Chambersburg, PA
1-800-356-4572

QUARRYVILLE AGWAY DAIRY SERVICE
27 East Fourth St.
Quarryville, PA
717-786-2126

WYSOX AGWAY FARM & HOME
Box 7, Sullivan St.
Wysox, PA
1-800-432-0027

UNION CITY AGWAY FARM CENTER
West High St. Extension
Union City, PA
1-800-328-7768



U
Universal
Better ways to dairy better.

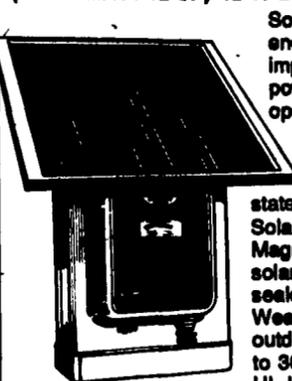
© Copyright 1993, Universal Dairy Equipment, Inc. 53303

Ag Progress Days

"Conserving Our Resources Through Science"

PARMAK MAGNUM 12 SOLAR-PAK

Low Impedance (Model MAG. 12-SP) 12-V. Bat. Operated



Solar powered, uses free energy from the sun. Low impedance for maximum power, longer life, no operating costs. America's first solid state solar powered electric fence. Features the latest state-of-the-art solar panel. Solar-Pak has all the great Magnum 12 features plus solar power. Complete with sealed 12 volt Gel battery. Weatherproof, portable outdoor model. Charges up to 30 miles of fence. UL listed.

SALES AND SERVICE

PEQUEA BATTERIES

103B N. Ronks Rd., Ronks, PA 17572

717-687-0880

Distributor & Warranty Station For Parmak

B&B SPRAY PAINTING SANDBLASTING

SPRAY - ROLL - BRUSH

Quality That's Affordable



Specializing in Buildings, Feed Mills - Roofs - Tanks - Etc., Aerial Ladder Equip. Stone - Brick - Restoration
574 Gibbon's Rd., Bird-in-Hand, Pa.

Answering Service (717) 354-5561