

# Soil Conservation, Nutrient Management At Ag Progress

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)— About 40 percent of Pennsylvania's farmers use conservation tillage to reduce erosion and runoff. A large percentage also have adopted nutrient management plans to maintain fertility and prevent pollutants from entering our water systems. To learn more about why conservation tillage and nutrient management are important, visit Penn State's Ag Progress Days, August 17-19.

"Before World War II, farmers added nutrients to their fields by spreading manure and growing legumes," said Dr. Les Lanyon, associate professor of soil fertility in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "When chemical fertilizers became readily available after 1945, the issue soon became more complex."

Lanyon will talk about the history of nutrient management, beginning with farming before there were chemical fertilizers and leading up to the challenges of managing nutrients on today's farms. The presentation will take place each day at 10:45 a.m. in the College of Agricultural Sciences Exhibits Building.

Lanyon will discuss why nutrient management is financially important for farmers, businesses and communities.

"Nutrient management isn't an isolated practice," said Lanyon. "It involves connections between livestock and crops on farms and between farms and businesses that supply feeds and fertilizers. It also involves connections between different kinds of farms, such as intensive livestock operations and cash-crop farms."

In addition, daily-nutrient and crop management tours will focus on proper calibration of manure spreaders and injecting liquid manure into fields to prevent nitrogen losses to the atmosphere and reduce odors. Times and locations of these tours will be listed on the schedule available at the event.

Farmers and others also can learn about the latest conservation tillage and surface residue practices. Lynn Hoffman, superintendent

of the Agronomy Research Center in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, and Joel Myers, state agronomist for Pennsylvania's Soil Conservation Service, will discuss these topics each day at 10 a.m. in the College Exhibits Building.

"Maintaining surface residue reduces soil erosion, conserves soil moisture and protects water sources," said Hoffman. "It's also important in meeting compliance requirements of government farm programs."

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)— "Conserving Our Resources Through Science" is the theme of this year's Ag Progress Days exposition, August 17-19.

The event, sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, is Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural showcase.

"The public is becoming increasingly aware of the need to protect our environment and use our natural resources wisely," said Robert Oberheim, Ag Progress Days manager. "Visitors at this year's event will see how research and education are helping to ensure a safe and plentiful food supply while protecting and preserving our water and soil."

Educational displays in the College of Agricultural Sciences Ex-

hibits Building will highlight the importance of clean drinking water for consumers. Exhibits will focus on groundwater movement and quality, community water supplies, maintaining a private well, household water testing and treatment, water conservation and other topics.

Hoffman also will talk about timing tillage to preserve maximum surface residue and will introduce residue-maintaining deep-

tillage equipment. "The correct choice and proper timing of tillage practices can maintain surface residue as well as increase yield and farm profits," said Hoffman.

In addition, each day there will be a cultivation demonstration at 11:45 a.m., a deep tillage demonstration at 12:30 p.m. and a secondary tillage demonstration at 1:30 p.m. Locations of tillage and machinery demonstrations will be listed on the schedule available at the event.

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 1,500-acre 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. For more information, call (800) PSU-1010.

## Ag Progress To Focus On Resource Conservation

and related production practices. Visitors also can see a variety of popular Ag Progress Days attractions, both new and traditional.

The equine educational program will feature breed exhibitions, training clinics, riding demonstrations and draft horse hitching and carts. The Equine Exhibits Tent will house displays and equipment from various segments of Pennsylvania's \$4 billion horse industry.

History buffs can tour the Pasto Agricultural Museum and see more than 300 rare and antique farm and home implements from the "muscle power era."

Crafts representing Pennsylvania's rural heritage, such as quilts, woodworking and pottery, will be showcased in Exhibits Building

#1. Several artisans will display their handiwork and discuss their crafts businesses. Interactive displays for children and a computer classroom will be featured in the Youth Building. Information on careers in the agricultural sciences also will be available.

Those who enjoy animals can see live owls, hawks, turtles and snakes at the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center exhibit, adjacent to the Youth Building. Happy Valley Friendly Farm, which operates an educational center and petting farm, will display domesticated animals.

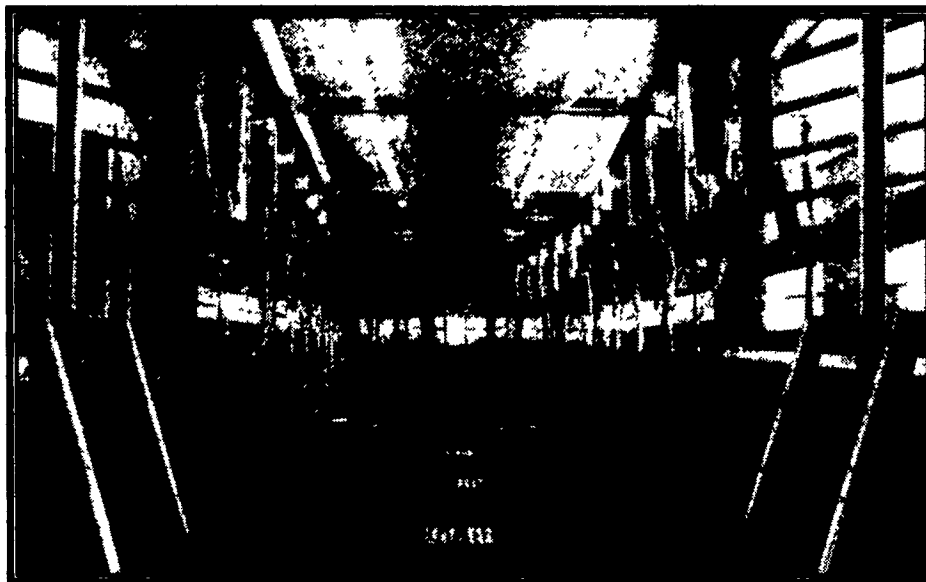
### Ag Progress Days

"Conserving Our Resources Through Science"

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