

# Water Quality Issues At Ag Progress

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Water. It's consumed, altered and wasted, but it's never gone for good. It's vital to life and a luxury. Although it takes on many forms, it's not always where we need it, and it's costing us more. It's in the news all the time, but it's something we often take for granted.

This summer, Pennsylvania's largest outdoor exhibition will feature water and water quality displays for homeowners and the general public. Ag Progress Days is an annual event held by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. This year, a series of exhibits on basic groundwater supplies and water movement, wells and water testing, water usage and conservation options will be on display in the College Exhibits Building at the Ag Progress Days site near State College. The three-day event runs August 17-19.

One display area will include a state precipitation map and water conservation devices for the home. Experts will be available to discuss costs and savings associated with various water conservation measures. Visitors may be surprised to see how much water is actually used each day in an average household.

The College's Laurel Highlands research project in southwestern Pennsylvania will also be featured to show how contamination of surface and groundwater in one area can affect water supplies miles away. A groundwater flow model using sand, gravel and dyes will demonstrate how groundwater flows through a variety of soil

and rock strata.

For the many visitors to Ag Progress Days who rely on wells for their drinking water, maps will be available showing well fields and aquifers in Pennsylvania. Information on well siting, state regulations, new well construction and repairs, and water testing will be provided. An interactive computer program, Drinking Water

Solutions, will be available for the public to try. Included is practical information on identifying and dealing with common contaminants found in water.

Information will also be available on the impact of recent nutrient management legislation on Pennsylvania farmers and steps producers and others are taking to protect our water supplies.

## Event Features New Production Exhibits

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Several new production agriculture exhibits related to conservation will be featured at Penn State's 1993 Ag Progress Days, August 17-19. The theme for this year's event is "Conserving Our Resources Through Science."

"Numerous exhibits, demonstrations and research tours will highlight progress on important issues facing today's farmers," said Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences.

"A major emphasis this year will be conservative plans, nutrient management and on-farm composting," said Robert Oberheim, Ag Progress Days coordinator in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Concrete manure bunkers, compost turners, and a manure composting pad will be displayed above West Twelfth Street, past the horse arena. The composting pad construction will demonstrate what is approved by the Soil Conservation Society and the Pennsyl-

vania Department of Environmental Resources.

The display will feature compost turners that handle a variety of compostable materials, such as food processing waste, animal manure, leaves, and grass clippings.

Also shown will be a recycling machine that chops triple-rinsed plastic pesticide containers into one-fourth-inch squares. The machine is designed to be transported easily from site to site.

"This technology could present a business opportunity to someone who wants to purchase a machine and recycle used plastic jugs generated from the agricultural industry," said Oberheim. "The chopped plastic can be sold back to the pesticide-container industry, which recycles the plastic into new jugs."

The College of Agricultural Sciences Exhibits Building will feature water-quality topics along with workshops covering nutrient management, conservation planning and pesticide education for

An added attraction will be an aquarium with native warm water fish, complete with information about each species.

As always Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences faculty and staff will be on hand to answer individual questions concerning state, local or individual water concerns, and a variety of publications will be available.

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.

pesticide credits.

Field demonstrations will show practical aspects of these topics, including use of boom and air-assist pesticide sprayers, deep tillage and use of row cultivators in low-growing field crops.

Nutrient management demonstrations will cover land application of manure, spreader rates and calibration techniques.

About 30 new commercial exhibitors from across the United States and Canada are expected at the event this year, representing a wide range of products. "Some of the new manufacturers will display electrical farm equipment,

planting and tilling machinery, new tractor lines, equipment modifications and farming supplies," said Oberheim.

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## Ag Progress Days

"Conserving Our Resources Through Science"

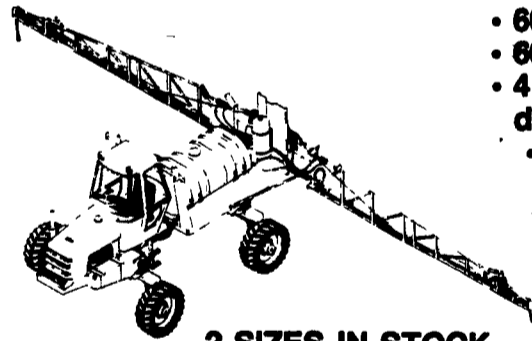


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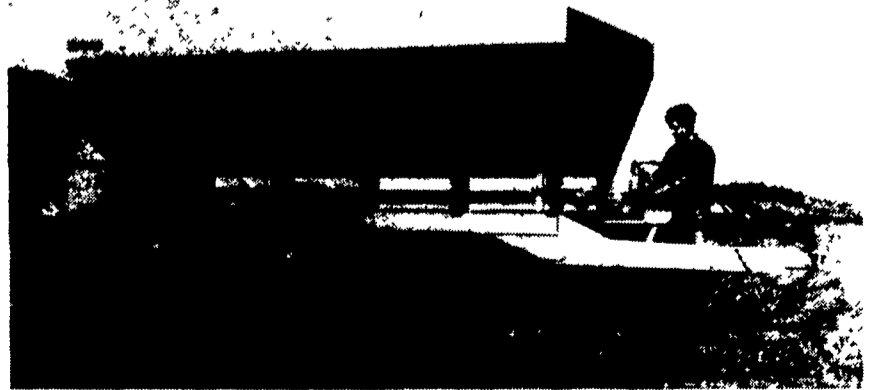
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