

Farm Show Highlights Laurel Ridge Conservation Efforts

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania's Laurel Ridge attracts tourists from around the world to enjoy the area's hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and boating. The 330-square-mile area contains six state parks as well as the Seven Springs and Hidden Valley Ski resorts.

The ridge also provides potable water to a large section of southwestern Pennsylvania, and area residents are concerned about the effects of real estate development on the region's natural resources,

particularly its high-quality groundwater. They are seeking ways to better assess the potential impacts of new construction and other development activities.

Penn State scientists are helping local officials gather this information and develop the tools needed for resource management decisions. Their efforts will be highlighted at the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences exhibit at the 78th Pennsylvania State Farm Show, in the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Jan. 8-13.

Researchers in the college are developing a computerized geographic information system (GIS) that will enable users to quickly access and analyze information about Laurel Ridge soils, water, land use and other characteristics. The system initially will be used in water supply and well-head protection planning.

"A GIS makes it easier to examine the many interrelated factors affecting natural resource management," said Dr. Rick Day, director of Penn State's Land Analysis Lab. "Layers of geogra-

phically referenced maps, with associated statistics and data, are stacked in a computer's memory to perform complex assessments of a region's natural resources."

The Laurel Ridge GIS will include data layers detailing features such as the region's soils, topography, geology, land use, water, oil and gas wells, timber and coal resources, and water quality research information. "Planners, citizens and others will be able to use the GIS to recombine data layers to more effectively predict the environmental

impacts of current and future development," Day said.

"Maps displaying different information — for example, watersheds, wells, water and sewer lines, soils and topography — can be superimposed on the GIS's computer screen to show how various factors might combine to affect the region."

Eventually the system will allow local planners to identify areas with available groundwater resources and to simulate the impact of proposed well sites and other projects.

"The ability to simulate the impact of proposed changes in land use will help avoid environmental damage and legal conflicts," Day said. "The system also will be used to help identify and protect sensitive groundwater recharge areas from contamination."

At the Penn State exhibit at the Farm Show, visitors can see for themselves how a GIS works. A computer demonstration will show how easily the system can layer different types of information, while educational exhibits will detail the scope and goals of the project.

At the end of the project, the GIS will be transferred to and maintained by local officials in the Laurel Ridge area. Day and other Penn State GIS experts will train future users of the system in workshops held at the Penn State and in the Laurel Ridge area.

The 1994 Farm Show will open to the public on Saturday, Jan. 8, and will close on Thursday, Jan. 13. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday; and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday. Parking is \$2 and admission is free.

Cheese Carving Salutes Dairy Industry

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The dairy barn is the place to be at the 1994 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Visitors can make their own dairy television commercial and win prizes. They can also observe one of the world's greatest wonders, a cheese carving saluting Pennsylvania's dairy industry.

Creative spirits can pre register to make a dairy commercial at the Farm Show. The winner will receive a special prize — the actual airing of their commercial on a

Pennsylvania television station.

Pre-registration for the commercial schedule can be made by calling Denise Spunar, at the American Dairy Association, (717) 283-2204. People will also be able to register at the dairy booth throughout the week of Farm Show, January 8 to 13, 1994. Commercials will be taped from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily except Sunday. On Sunday, commercials can be taped from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Special props including dairy

product cartons will be available at the dairy booth for filming. A special studio is being created to provide a "dairy" background for the commercials. All participants will receive a videotape copy of their performance and Farm Show visitors will actually see the commercials live in the dairy barn.

Pennsylvania's Dairy Promotion Partners, the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Mid East UDIA/F.O. 36 Advertising and Promotion Agency and the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program are sponsoring the

booth's activities. In addition to the commercial studio, the Partners' booth will be the site of the first Farm Show cheese carving. The display will be created by Richard Alford, from Akron, Ohio, and will offer a tribute to the state's dairy industry. Approximately 40 pounds of cheese will be used to build the display.

T-shirts will also be offered for sale at the dairy booth, located in the north building of the Farm Show Complex. The shirts will carry the theme "Some of My Best Friends Are Cows!" with a variety of neon colors highlighting a colorful display of cows. Shirts will be available in both children and adult sizes.

Rubber cow erasers, a traditional Farm Show offering, will also be available at the booth. Sales will be from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Sunday, when the booth will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More information about the Dairy Promotion Partner's booth is available by calling (717) 787-6903.

New Swine Formulation Registered For Feed Use

RAHWAY, N.J. — Merck Ag-Vet Division announced the approval by FDA of Ivomec® (ivermectin) Premix for Swine, a new product that will provide pork producers with the first in-feed formulation for controlling both internal and external parasites in growing pigs.

New Ivomec Premix for Swine is formulated as a 0.6 percent concentration (Type A Medicated Article) and is labeled for the in-feed control of a broad spectrum of internal parasites, including five species of adult worms and four species of immature worms. Ivomec Premix also kills two major external swine parasites — sucking lice and sarcoptic mange

mites.

"This new approval will be a major convenience to hog producers," said Dr. Edward A. Boraski, senior director of U.S. Technical Services for Merck, "because it's the first feed additive registered to control both internal and external parasites of swine. The in-feed control of external parasites will eliminate the need for a separate mange treatment."

"Ivomec Premix is mixed at a standard inclusion rate of 1.8 grams per ton of complete feed," said Del Birkhofer, associate product manager at Merck. "The standard inclusion rate eliminates the need to calculate a special mixing formula for different

weight groups of hogs. It'll take a lot of work and worry out of controlling parasites in hogs."

The new registration permits feeding Ivomec Premix for swine to growing pigs up to 220 pounds with only a five-day withdrawal period. Merck expects the new product to be available in early 1994.



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