

Commonwealth Campuses Offer Gateway To Ag Courses

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — With career opportunities in the agricultural sciences expanding, more and more Pennsylvania students are enrolling in agricultural colleges, and many choose to begin their studies at Penn State Commonwealth Campuses.

"Commonwealth Campuses are great places to start pursuing an agricultural career," says Dr. Marianne Houser, coordinator of undergraduate recruitment in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"They combine advantages of a small-college setting with the vast resources that only a large university can provide," she says. "More than 600 students in the agricultural sciences are attending Commonwealth Campuses."

Students can begin studying for their baccalaureate degrees in the agricultural sciences at one of 18 Penn State campuses. "As many as half of all Penn State students begin at a Commonwealth Campus," Houser notes. "After the first year, students consult with their advisers about when to transfer to the University Park Campus."

The Penn State Berks Campus in Reading, located on the 240-acre former estate of a Berks County industrial leader, serves students in Berks, Lebanon, Lancaster, and Montgomery counties. "We have a lot to offer agriculture students," says Dr. David Sanford, associate professor of horticulture, who teaches and advises at the Berks Campus.

"As a result, undergraduates in

agriculture on our campus have increased from 10 in 1988 to more than 100 today. In addition to the facilities common to all Penn State campuses, we have a state-of-the-art greenhouse, a horticulture and soils laboratory and a food science and microbiology laboratory."

Students in the western part of the state may choose to attend the Penn State McKeesport Campus, located 15 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. The 42-acre campus features computer and microcomputer centers, comprehensive science and engineering labs, a student union, a library, a modern gymnasium and a residence hall. The campus also adjoins a community park between McKeesport and White Oak.

"because our classes are small, teachers and students get to know each other," says Dr. John Zavodni, associate professor of zoology and agricultural sciences representative at Penn State McKeesport. "I have 52 students in Biology 101 and I can give each more individual attention than I could with a larger class."

The Penn State Altoona Campus is situated on 105 acres located two miles from the Altoona business district and 43 miles from the University Park Campus. Penn State Altoona enrolls 2,600 undergraduate students, many of whom come from central Pennsylvania.

"With more than 37,000 students, the University Park Campus can overwhelm freshmen," says Dr. Thomas Russo, associate professor of chemistry and agri-

cultural sciences representative at Penn State Altoona. "It's easy for new students to become distracted and lose sight of their studies. Starting at a smaller campus can help students to focus on their grades and sharpen academic skills before attending the University Park Campus."

Penn State's College of Agri-

cultural Sciences offers 19 undergraduate majors, 15 minors, three associate degree programs and 16 graduate degrees and cooperates in offering eight intercollegiate programs. More than 85 percent of the college's 2,535 undergraduates come from nonagricultural backgrounds, and 33 percent are women.

People interested in agricultural careers are encouraged to visit the college to discuss academic plans with an advisor, meet faculty in their area of interest, and ask questions about financial assistance, residential life, course requirements and more. To arrange a visit, call the Office for Resident Education at (814) 865-7521.



BMA Provides Scholarships To FFA Members

In 1993, for the sixth year, BMA awarded five \$1,000 scholarships through the National FFA Foundation to FFA members pursuing a four-year college degree in any area of agriculture.

As part of the company's continuing commitment to the agricultural industry, BMA will increase its support of this program by sponsoring ten \$1,000 scholarships for FFA members in 1994.

Applications for the BMA scholarships, as well as the many other scholarships offered through the National FFA Foundation, are available through BMA agents or local FFA advisors. To be considered for 1994 scholarships, applications must be postmarked by February 15, 1994. All scholarship applications are judged by the National FFA Foundation.

Since its founding in 1909, BMA has emerged as one of

America's leading providers of life and medical insurance, disability income, and annuities.

BMA's Baltimore office, headed by Norm E. Biondi, LUTCF, opened in 1992, and is located at Woodmere I, Suite 302, 9881 Broken Land Parkway in Columbia, (410) 381-0016.

Maryland FFA Members Visit BMA

Four Maryland FFA chapters were special guests at a luncheon hosted by BMA when they attended the FFA's national convention held in Kansas City, Mo., November 11-13.

After lunch with BMA executives, the FFA members toured the company's Home Office to learn more about BMA and how it serves the agricultural industry.

Each November, BMA is proud

to host a series of luncheons for FFA members in Kansas City for the organization's annual national convention. Approximately 3,000 FFA members have attended the luncheons since the first were held in 1970.

The Maryland chapters attending this year's luncheons were Flintstone FFA, Flintstone, Md.; Oakland FFA, Oakland, Md.; South Carroll FFA, Sykesville, Md.; and Westminster FFA, Westminster, Md.

The chapters were invited to the luncheons based on recommendations from BMA's Baltimore office. The Office, headed by Norm E. Biondi, LUTCF, opened in 1992, and is located at Woodmere I, Suite 302, 9881 Broken Land Parkway in Columbia, (410) 381-0016.



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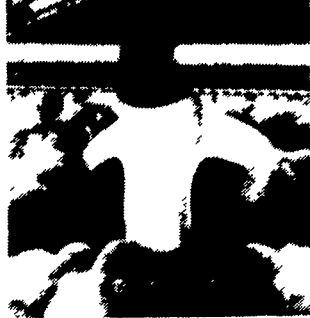
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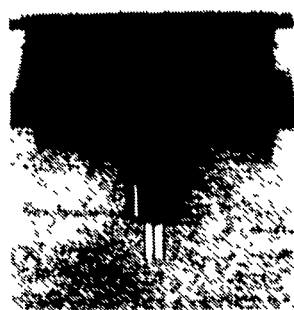
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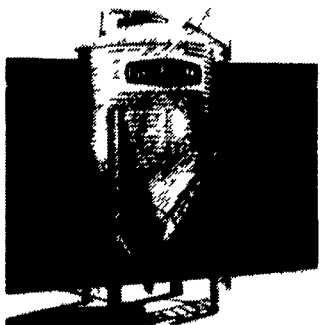
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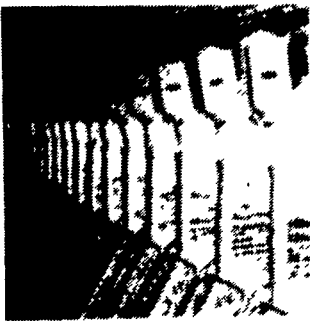
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