

# Field Day Demonstrates Satellite Technology

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — A field day for farmers to see the latest technology in "precision management" of fields and crops was held Wednesday as a joint venture between Reading Bone Agway and Messick's Farm Equipment in cooperation with the Milton Hershey School Ag Science Program.

The event attracted 200 farmers and included residue management, forage making, and satellite technology. The farm machines worked the soil and the forages, and the new satellite system that maps fields to pinpoint the gathering of fertility data captured attention.

The new Edge plant nutrition program uses a small four-wheel drive vehicle to ride the perimeter of the field. This circumference is recorded by use of a satellite connection and transmitted into a computer on the ground. Grids are then placed over this large field outlined in the computer to record

smaller five- or 10-acre fields. From this data, a permanent record of the fields is placed in the hands of the farmer so that soil tests can always be taken at the same place in the field. The fertility program can be more accurately recorded and completed to the specifications of the new nutrient management laws now presented to farmers.

The program has been running in the Midwest for several years and has now been adapted to the smaller fields in the Northeast.

Other events at the field day included plot tours of corn and soybean varieties, proper depth studies, herbicide demonstration plots, and seed treatment. In addition to the value for farmers, the demonstration fields help the students in the ag science program at Milton Hershey School to become acquainted with agriculture and "where things come from."



Farmers hear about the latest technology at the field day.



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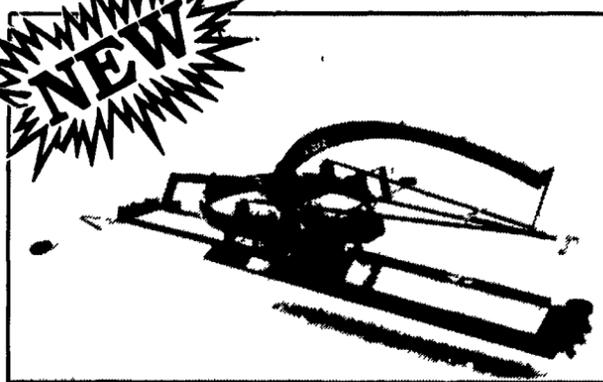
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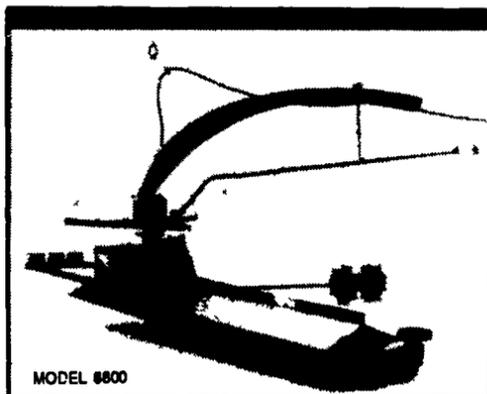
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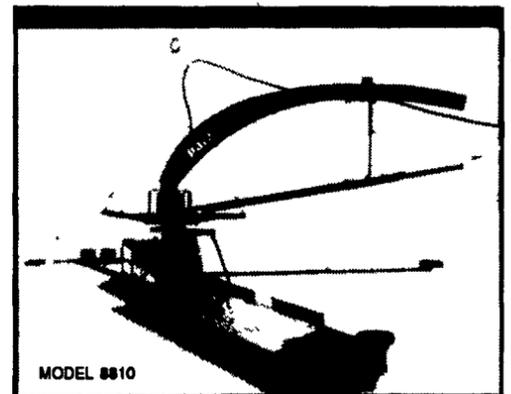
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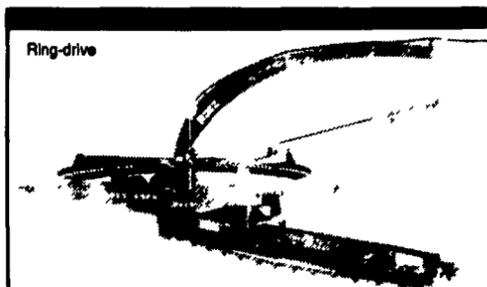
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