

Ag Progress Plans Activities For Families

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — By popular demand, SciQ is returning to Penn State's Ag Progress Days. Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the exposition will be held August 16-18 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center near State College.

SciQ first appeared at Ag Progress Days in 1987, but has not been held since 1990. Patterned after a television game show, this fast-paced event allows three contestants to test their knowledge of agriculture. Contestants and individuals in the audience can win prizes including Penn State Creamery ice cream and SciQ t-shirts.

This year, the game will focus on how consumers and producers can help keep food safe. The questions and answers featured in SciQ will cover many guidelines and rules for keeping foods safe. The game also will highlight the efforts of scientists, producers, and processors to safeguard foods from pesticide residues and harmful bacteria.

The game will be played at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily in the College Exhibits Building Theatre. and on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Admission to SciQs is free, but due to limited seating in the theatre area, visitors should arrive early.

Penn State's Progress Days feature more than 500 acres of educa-

tional and commercial exhibits, tours, and machinery demonstrations. 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 of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission and parking is free.

Following is a listing of other programs that may appeal to you. For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free from July 18 to August 16.

• **Food Safety Highlighted:** Learn how scientists are making food safer by refining production and processing methods. Also,

learn what consumers can do to protect themselves from foodborne illness.

Visitors can take a food safety challenge quiz and see hourly demonstrations on safe food handling in the kitchen. Dr. Stephen Knabel, assistant professor of food science, and other scientists will discuss the latest methods used to control and destroy pathogens, basic food preparation, storage and reheating guidelines.

• **Get home gardening tips:** Get expert advice on plant and insect problems in the Landscape, Lawn and Garden Tent. Bring samples for the experts to examine. Bring a large enough sample that repre-

sents various stages of the problem, bring insects in jars, if possible.

• **Program for kids and families:** If you've never made a cornstalk fiddle, blown a maple whistle or enjoyed a game of Fox and Geese, consider attending the Kids Back Then program by Bill Metzel, a master storyteller and a lifelong student of traditional folk heritage. The program introduces youngsters to yesterday's pastimes. See old-time toys, musical instruments, puzzles, and dolls.

Youngsters can participate in games and stunts, learn to make

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