

Ag Progress Spins Dreams For Farmers And Others

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ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) —

Dairy farmer Kim Karms finds Ag Progress Days spins a web of wishes for him on his annual pilgrimage to it. As he tours the 500 acres packed with machinery, educational and commercial exhibits, and demonstration plots, he dreams. Dreams of owning the biggest tractor and all the shiny implements that money can buy.

"It's a place to fantasize," his buddy Lynn Chamberlain agrees.

"That's why we come along," Kim's wife Patricia said, "to hold onto the checkbook."

But it's all said in jest, for Patricia and Lynn's wife Genevieve admit to a little bit of dreaming themselves.

The two families traveled from Clearville, Bedford County, with their eight children who range in age from 5 months to 16 years.

They, like thousands of other visitors, find Ag Progress Days offers something for all ages to enjoy.

Many find that one day spent touring the grounds is not enough if they want to take in the equipment demonstrations.

For farmers such as J.Loren Yoder and son Craig, who are fortunate enough to live close by, they return for several visits. The Yoders live in Belleville. They finish the morning milking before the 35-minute drive to Ag Progress Days and then return home for the evening milking.

But some aren't as fortunate to live nearby and find lodging in State College and other nearby places.

It was almost an impossibility for Ann Smith and her husband to find last-minute lodging.

The Smiths traveled from Newville, Cumberland County, to spend three days at Ag Progress. On Tuesday they served at booths for the Farm Bureau Advisory Service. They spent the day talking to visitors about the advantages of Farm Bureau councils. On Wednesday, they were free of responsi-

(Turn to Page B4)



Close friends from Clearville, Bedford County, enjoy touring Ag Progress together. Lynn and Genevieve Chamberlain are on the left with their children Brandon, 16; twins Lyeice and Lynette, 14; Dereck, 12; and Wendell, 5 months. Lyeice is a dairy maid for her county. On the right are Kim and Patricia Karms with children Beth, 10; Sara, 8; and Lee, 4.



Some people come a long distance to visit Ag Progress but few travel as far as Suzanne and children Laura, 13, and Daniel, 10, who came from Spain to visit with grandparents Penn State Extension Director Emeritus Jay Irwin and his wife Betty.



Although strangers, these fellows found they had something in common when they toured the Pasto Agricultural Museum. The 70- to 82-year-old men reminisce how hard thrashing, manure moving, and milking used to be when they were younger. From left, Lee Elsenhart from Wayne County, and George Cullison and Willard Hoff from Manchester, Md.



Animals, ice cream, and tractors entertain the children of Nelson Zimmerman, Crystal, 12; Chad, 9; Andrea, 5; and Alisha, 2. Nelson works with his brother Paul B. Zimmerman, who sell agricultural equipment from their Littitz store.



Stephen Whitehair peers into a microscope while his family looks on. Parents Ken and Mary Ann from Terre Alta, W. Va., say they have been coming to Ag Progress Days for 10 years or more. Since they farm, they like to look at the new equipment to get ideas.

Homestead Notes