

# Ag Progress Spins Dreams

(Continued from Page B4)

Melissa and her parents Monica and Jerry have 150 colonies of bees that they keep on farms in Berks County and in Florida. Melissa travels to Florida four times a year to extract honey from the Florida hives. They extract clover, orange blossom, wildflower, and buckwheat honey flavors. Clover is Melissa's favorite.

She's quite adept at honey extraction and knows how to examine laying patterns to see if the queen bee is getting too old or too lazy to do her job.

On one occasion, Melissa was stung 20 times. But she isn't complaining. She thinks the venom from stings is actually healthy.

"It's a wonder drug," she said as she told about her father and others who have arthritis. They purposefully get stung once a week to alleviate the pain caused by arthritis.

Melissa, herself, is a runner. She claims that after being stung several times, she feels more energetic and stronger and can "really run."

As Honey Queen, Melissa is delighted to talk to the public about the honey industry. She answered questions from Ag Progress visitors while watching bees at work in a live bee exhibit at the stand.

In a building on the grounds, the Pasto Agricultural Museum displayed more antique farm and home implements this year. Many of them were hands-on that allowed visitors to actually see how the items worked.

For the older generation, the museum brought back memories.

Lee Eisenhart, a farmer from Lake Ariel in Wayne County, was examining a bobsled like the one he remembers from his youth when he overheard Maryland residents George Cullison and Willard Hoff discussing it. Soon the trio were swapping stories on much of the implements and tools displayed.

Eisenhart said, "I spent many hours working a threshing machine like this. It was dusty, dirty, hard work. I didn't enjoy using it as a kid, but now it brings back memories and I think it's kind of fun."

The trio discussed harvesting ice from creeks and milking cows by hand.

And that manure bucket, actually called a litter carrier, that needed to be filled with a shovel and then pushed out and emptied onto the manure pile was the source of many memories of aching muscles.

Cullison said, "Every boy — and girl too — should be made to work on a farm for at least two years. That would take care of all the trouble makers in the country."

Not only have farming implements changed during the past generations but also food preparations.

To test food safety IQ, a Food Safety SciQ was held. Patterned after a television game show, the



Ann Smith from Newville

participants sat on a stage in the College Exhibits Building Theatre, where they were questioned by radio hosts Steve Jones and Jeff Brown.

The contestant who first squeezed a horn, was allowed to answer the question.

If the question was wrongly answered, a fog horn sounded. If answered correctly, wild, unbelievable applause from the audience followed.

Multi-choice questions included such ones as what does food irradiation do, what foods used microorganisms, and what is the most dangerous temperature for food storage.

Contestants who were randomly selected as they walked into the room won T-shirts and ice cream coupons.



Food safety demonstrations show proper methods for cooking meats and for sanitizing the kitchen.



Pennsylvania Honey Queen Melissa Nicole Swartz with beekeeper Fisher sell honey, honey ice cream, and other sweet snacks to Ag Progress crowds.

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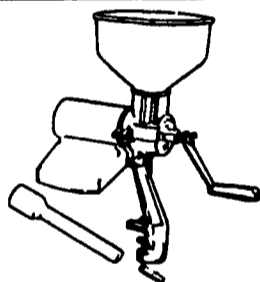
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