

# Expo Is Lancaster's Equivalent To Ag Progress Days

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
**Lancaster Farming Staff**  
**LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)**  
 — Lancaster County's Annual Conservation Exposition is "the Ag Progress Days of Lancaster's conservation organizations," said program coordinator Travis Martin.

Martin, district conservation technician, said that the annual Exposition, scheduled Saturday, July 15 at the County Exhibit Farm at the Lancaster Central Park, is open to anyone interested in promoting the benefits of conservation.

At the Expo, scheduled events are as diverse as those found at the annual Penn State Ag Progress Days. They include descriptions of conservation programs and equipment used, tillage demonstrations, precision farming using the global positioning system, a panel discussion on the state Nutrient Management Law, and farm equipment exhibits.

For sports enthusiasts, there will be a countywide representation of various groups, presenting demonstrations and accomplishments of countywide conservation. In addition, one focus of the daylong event will be stream protection and enhancement education provided by hayrides along Mill Creek, which runs through the demonstration farm.

For homeowners, natural lawn care and proper care of septic systems will be featured. And for

children, a petting zoo and other fun and informative activities will be offered.

The Expo will not focus simply on farming practices to promote conservation, according to coordinator Jim Shirk, manager of agricultural services for the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Conservation in Lancaster isn't just a farmer here or a stream with a tree there," said Shirk. "It's everybody working together and they're all related in some way. And by having an Expo like this, where we bring all those groups together, they can see how its related to one another — your neighbors affect you and you affect your neighbors."

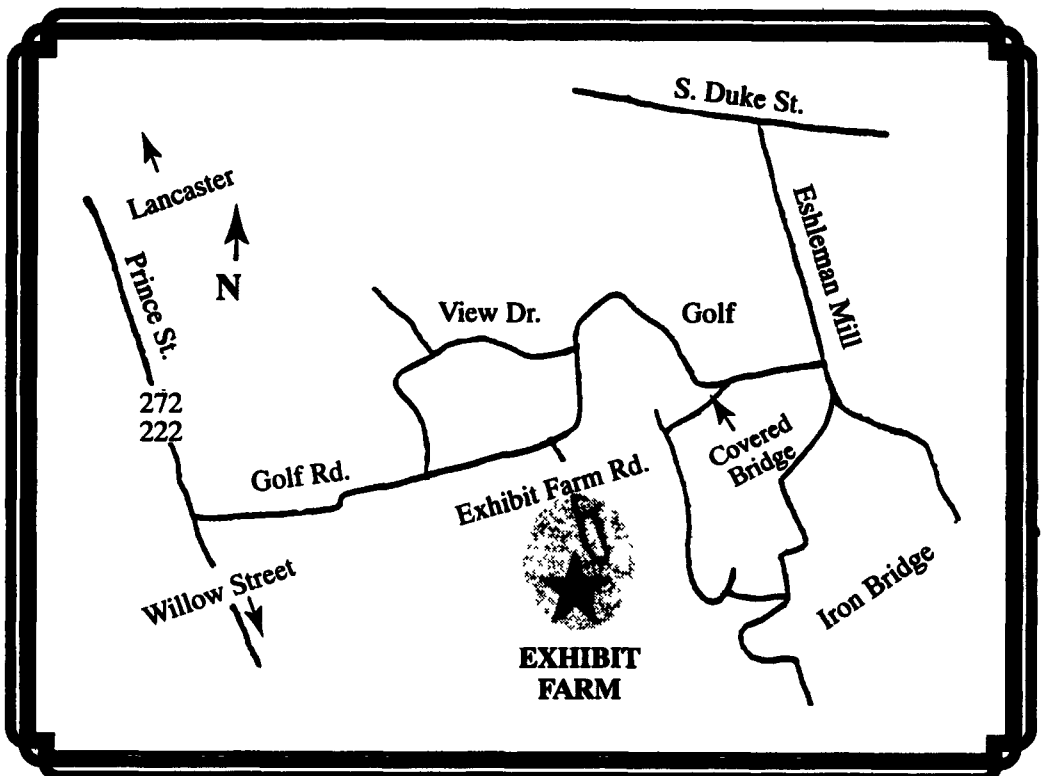
At last year's Expo held at David Becker's farm in Elizabethtown, about 120 farmers and agri-industry representatives were on hand to view conservation practices and see how "we all live downstream," with emphasis on water quality and Chesapeake Bay conservation programs. But concerns about farm biosecurity prompted the decision to hold the event in a publicly owned, central location such as the county park, where conservation practices are already highlighted.

The park's exhibit farm conservation methods will be discussed in some detail by Harold Fritz, who farms about 41 acres at the 550-acre park, according to



According to Travis Martin, right, the purpose of the Expo, like in the radio commercial, is to invite the neighbors over for lemonade, and instead of calling them neighbors, "start calling them friends." At left is Jim Shirk, manager of ag services, Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.

## Lancaster County Park



The Expo will be held at the County Exhibit Farm at the Lancaster County Park.



Tree plantings for streambank conservation will be highlighted at the Expo.

Martin.

This year, the Expo emphasis is "As our resources go, so goes the nation," said Martin.

Also, a "soap box" will give program exhibitors and conservation groups a chance to speak out about their activities.

The county residents have many concerns and, like a recent radio commercial, according to Martin, the purpose of the Expo is to invite

the neighbors over for lemonade, and instead of calling them neighbors, "start calling them friends."

"The Expo will highlight the conservation work that is going on in the county and to show what neighbors are doing to promote conservation," said Martin. "We

want to show each person's responsibilities and give them tools so they can improve the quality of their operation."

For more information, contact Martin at the conservation district office at (717) 299-5361.



The focus of the daylong event will be on stream protection and enhancement through hayrides along Mill Creek, which runs through the demonstration farm. These hay wagons will be used at the Expo.



"Conservation in Lancaster isn't just a farmer here or a stream with a tree there," said Shirk, right. "It's everybody working together and they're all related in some way." At left is Travis Martin, county conservation technician.