

# Ag Showcase Day Provides Education And Fun

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor

**FAIR HILL, Md.** — For the 15th consecutive year, one of the major farm events at the Cecil County Fair was the Ag Showcase Day at Fair Hill Farm Tuesday.

Once again, farmers had the opportunity to see competing brands of equipment working side by side in the field.

"This is better than other field days or fairs where you only get to see the equipment on display," said Dave Wilson, Cecil County extension agent. "Here the equipment is

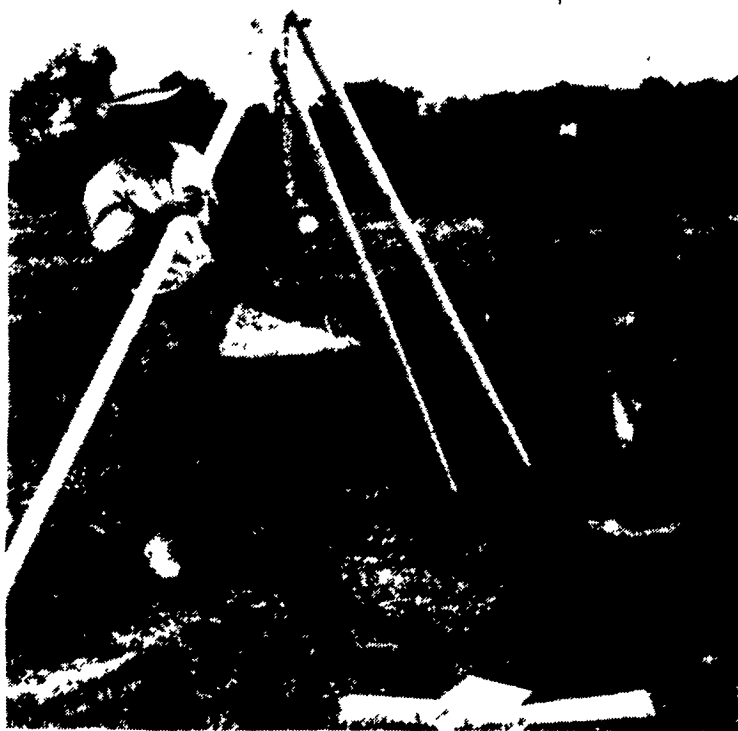
working, and if you are interested, you can even drive the piece of machinery yourself."

A full schedule of events and educational demonstrations were held. Gary Cottman, John Deere Product Rep., spoke on Global Positioning Systems, and Dr. Wesley Musser, extension economist, University of Maryland, gave guidelines for selecting the proper size of equipment on your farm.

The manure spreader calibration demonstration showed farmers how to figure the rate of applica-

tion with the equipment on their own farm. Hughy Salfner, Cecil County nutrient management agent, demonstrated with a sheet of plastic laid in the path of the spreading manure. You take two 10' x 10' square sheets of plastic at two different locations in the field. Weigh the manure caught on the sheets, and get the average number of pounds per sheet. Then take the number of pounds times 21.78 and divide by the square feet in the plastic sheet (100). This gives you the rate of application per acre.

"This is a very simple equation



To find the rate of application by your manure spreader, you first weigh the pounds spread on a 10' x 10' plastic sheet. Demonstrating are, from left, John Purdue, Hartford County nutrient management consultant; Dave Wilson, Cecil County agent; and Hughy Salfner, Cecil County nutrient management consultant.



Brian Reed, 9, gives the old 1936 Case RL a crank as Andrew Barczewsk, 10, works the throttle. Both boys from Pleasant Hill, were having a great time running the old tractor around the field at Ag Showcase Day.

to obtain a very important answer," Salfner said. "If you know the soil test, the nutrients in the manure, and the crop you want to grow, you can figure how much manure you need to apply."

Salfner also showed that often more than half the nutrients are lost if the manure is not incorporated into the soil immediately after

application.

Some of the other demonstrations included: round bailers; TMR mixer, bale chopper; conservation tillage; compact tractor, and deer fencing.

Participating equipment dealers were listed as: Ag Industrial, Rising Sun; Biggs Inc., Rising Sun;

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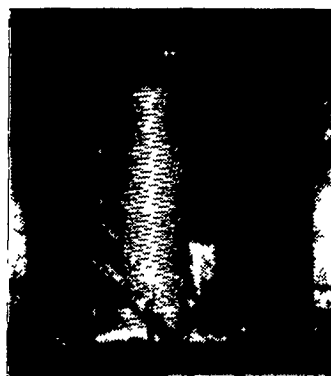
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