

# Ag Progress Explores Animal Agriculture

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—Visitors to Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 15-17, can learn about new developments in beef production, dairy farming and other aspects of animal agriculture by touring the Dairy and Livestock Tent.

The tent features educational exhibits and demonstrations by businesses, breed associations and Penn State researchers in veterinary science and dairy and animal science. Displays include subjects relating to swine and dairy and beef cattle.

"The tent provides an opportunity for College of Agricultural

Sciences faculty and staff to meet with people, share research results and answer questions about livestock production," said Dr. Larry Specht, professor of dairy science and coordinator for the Dairy and Livestock Tent.

Dr. Michael O'Connor, professor of dairy science, will host an exhibit focusing on the types and benefits of various heat detection aids for dairy producers. Dr. Kenneth Kephart, associate professor of animal science, will offer information about how wise feed formulation can help swine producers significantly reduce nitrogen

and phosphorus excretion without jeopardizing hog performance.

"Soybean meal, a source of protein and nitrogen, can be decreased by adding synthetic lysine to the diet," said Kephart. "Phosphorus often is over-supplemented and can be reduced by matching dietary levels to the hogs' actual requirements."

Dr. Lisa Holden, assistant professor of dairy and animal science, will discuss Penn State's Dairy Management and Profitability program (Dairy-MAP). This series of workshops helps producers apply general management techniques to improve the profitability of dairy farming.

Jeannie Leggett, extension assistant in agricultural and biological engineering, will present information about biologically manipulating animal manure.

"Different bacteria want to use the energy in manure," she said. "Some bacteria create usable end products, such as methane gas, while others create undesirable by-products and odors. By manipulating the way manure is handled, we can encourage the growth of desirable bacteria and create usable end products from manure."

Faculty also will be on hand to discuss disease resistance in animals, the Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) program, and agricultural information and resources avail-

able through the global Internet computer network. Other exhibits will feature Penn State's Animal Diagnostic Laboratory and the Center for Mastitis Research.

• Penn State's Ag Progress Days features more than 500 acres of educational and commercial exhibits, tours and machinery demonstrations. It is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rocksprings.

For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free through August 17.

## Would You Like To Start, Or Retire From Farming?

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—Today's low profits, high taxes, and high land values have created unique problems that make family succession less predictable and threaten the survival of the family farm.

Many children of farmers decide to seek other occupations because the family does not talk about the future or because the farmer thinks he can't pass on the farm without saddling the successor with a lot of debt.

But careful planning can make it possible to pass on the farm to the next generation or an unrelated beginning farmer.

If you want to learn more about farm link and farm transfer planning, stop at the Center for Rural Pennsylvania's exhibit in the Conservation Education Tent at Ag Progress Days on August 15-17.

Pennsylvania's Farm Link Coordinator Marion Bowlan will be on hand to talk to individuals interested in exiting or entering farming. Information describing the program will be available as well as questionnaires for prospective farmers and farm owners/landholders.

Bowlan said the Farm Link program is designed to match these two groups in order to slow the steady decline in family farm operations. A database matching service provides owners with a list of prospective applicants who are looking for farming opportunities that match that particular farm operation. She assists and facilitates the matching process along with offering resource information for a successful farm transition. Other interested agricultural organizations work cooperatively with Farm Link providing information, advice, and assistance.

For more information on Farm Link, contact Marion Bowlan at (800)-9PA-FARM.

See Us At AG PROGRESS DAYS - West 11th St. - August 15 - 16 - 17

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