

# Ag Progress Demonstrates Applied Science

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — The buses may not be new and have no air conditioning, but tours of Ag Progress Days provides farmers and anyone with an interest in the applied sciences an opportunity to tour the Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences' 1,500-acre Russell E. Larson Research Station at Rockspring.

Christine Manns — graduate student in the PSU Department of Agronomy with a masters in soil science and coach of the college soil judging team — was tour guide for some of this year's Ag Progress general research bus tours.

She explained that only 500 acres of the research station are tillable and suitable for small plot crop research.

However, on those cultivated acres, researchers from all departments and disciplines within the PSU College of Agricultural Sciences share equipment and sometimes studies to discover new techniques that may or may not enhance the ability of Pennsylvania agricultural entrepreneurs to make money.

There are studies involving grape production, a tree nursery, a special Penn State low trellis system for orchard production. The apple grafts coming from a special rootstock are trained to grow closely and with the support of the trellis to produce much more per amount of plant and also be more readily harvested.

Research is also ongoing into ways to regulate irrigators with

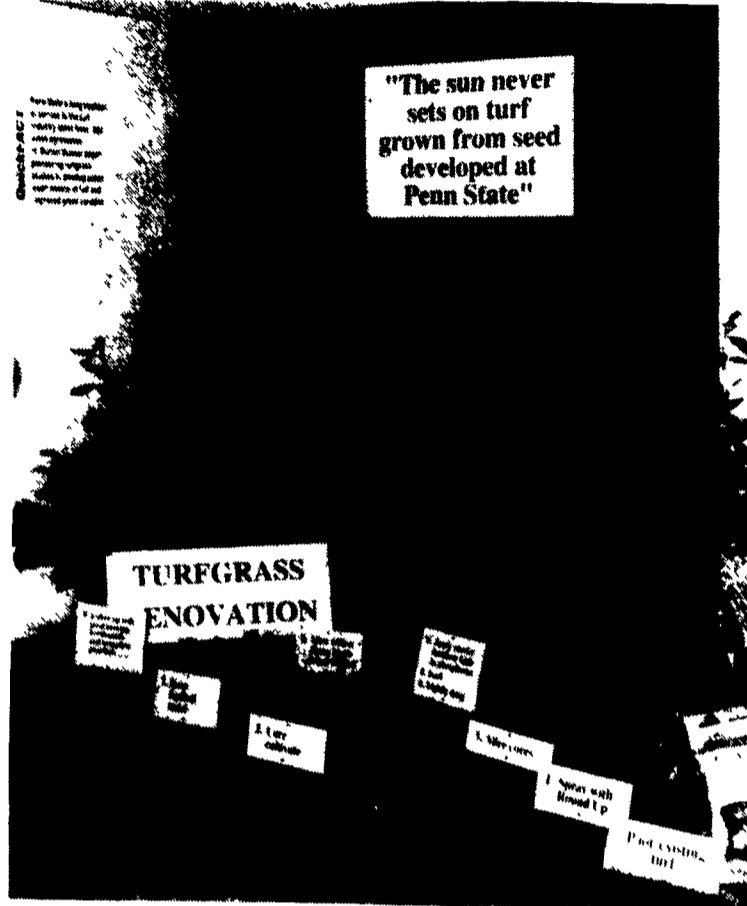
sensors to eliminate waste and at the same time better prevent frost damage.

There are patches with pumpkins varieties, plastic mulch studies looking into the effects of different colors (yellow seems to attract insects and potentially may be used to help focus insecticide treatments away from the plants and more directly onto the pest insects.

Trials involving carrots, sugar

snap peas, spinach, peppers, tomatoes, melons, raspberries, production of peppers that naturally have low-level heat (called savory peppers, from South and Central America), slicing cucumbers, cantaloupe on raised beds, crabapple varieties that are being looked at for game feed value and also for fire blight and apple scab resistance, potato reseach examining resistance to early blight and

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Turfgrass research is a large project at Penn State.



Penn State worker Steve Smith talks to visitors to Ag Progress Days about the types of genetically altered soybeans on trial and display.



Kathy Brown instructs riders on how to give commands to their mounts in order to allow the equines to learn best.



A Penn State Extension publication distribution center is set up and well attended. Public education is the goal of extension and Ag Progress Days.



Tom Weber, with the PSU College of Agricultural Sciences computer services, instructs on the basics of computer uses.