

# Ag Progress Demonstrates Applied Science

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anthracnose, checking certain biochemicals in leaves that indicate ozone stress, using spent mushroom compost to build up soils, work to develop better varieties of barley and wheat more suitable to Pennsylvania production conditions, research documenting the effects of using vetch as a living mulch with corn (reduces detrimental plants and also provides nitrogen), soybeans, spring grains, tests into sidedressing nitrogen, crop rotation, etc.

All this and more is ongoing at the research station, though without an explanation, many of the plots, festooned with small red and blue flags and different markers, actually look as though someone didn't know what they were doing.

Apparently, sometimes it's hard to tell between a lack of a green thumb and a research result.

There are entomology studies, research using Russian varieties of clover, native warm season grasses, the uses of introduced nematodes to combat clover disease, and detection systems for fall armyworm and corn borer, etc., fill the otherwise regular looking farm fields.

An apple museum, really a repository for apple varieties, also fills out the uses of the land at the research station.

But the college also works with commercial interests, especially when they pay to have trials done.

Some of the newest genetically altered crops were on exhibit at Ag Progress Days.

Soybeans genetically altered to resist the effects of the commonly used herbicide called "Roundup" were on display. A row of regular

soybeans planted next to a row of Asgrow Roundup Ready soybeans were withered and dead, while the new genetic variety towered.

(Asgrow has scheduled an open house at 10 a.m., August 29, at a research field day site in Galena, Maryland, to show new research facilities and to show farmers what kinds of products they are involved with. Call (800) 836-3720 for more information.)

The Roundup Ready soybeans were created through a joint effort by Monsanto and Asgrow and Seedway, a Hall, N.Y. — based

distributor of the new variety.

Of course, there were other varieties of soybeans and corn, as genetic altered crops have been given approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Ciba Seeds and Mycogen have both received approval for their genetically altered varieties of corn. The corn has been altered so that it produces its own pesticide — *Bacillus Thuringiensis* — to ward off the European cornborer.

In addition, to the general

research, educating the public about horses has been increasing in recent years. This year, Kathy Brown, manager of Ka-My Stables in Bellefonte, with the help of two aides, demonstrated how to train and develop a horse for the trail and obstacles.

The lessons are clear, and the instructors don't use old trick-trained horses to make their points. They have used some veteran horses and some green to demonstrate some of the differences and finish.

Other interesting, and educational highlights included an hobby entomology display geared for parents and children, a basic computer workshop done by Tom Weber, with the PSU College of Ag computer services, an extension publication distribution center where dozens of free educational publications were handed out.

At first glance, the displays and exhibits may not have the mass appeal polish of a commercial entertainment park, but with each exhibit, there is something new to be learned, tested or tried.

## Hay Show Provides Opportunity To Compare

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**ROCKSPRING** (Centre Co.) — There were 98 samples entered in 22 classes at this year's Ag Progress Hay Show, held last week at Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences' Russell E. Larson Research Station at Rockspring.

Marvin Hall, with the Department of Agronomy, is in charge of the annual show, judged by Lester Vough, of the University of Maryland. All entries at the Ag Progress show automatically are entered for consideration at the annual state Farm Show hay show in January.

The show features three categories.

The first category is for hay that is field cured or partially field cured plus mow finished with no heat treatment and no hay preservatives used.

The second category is for that hay that was partially field cured plus heat dried, but not treated with a preservative.

The third category is for partially field cured hay in which a preservative is used.

There are 10 classes per category and they are numbered Class 1, through Class 30.

The grand champion in the first category was John Valkovec, of Bath, in Northampton County. His later cut alfalfa/grass mixed entry — with more than 10 percent grasses, but not more than 50 percent — was judged first place out of those entries.

In the partially field cured division, the grand champion was Robert Bieber, of Nazareth, who won with his entry of later cut alfalfa with not more than 10 percent grasses.

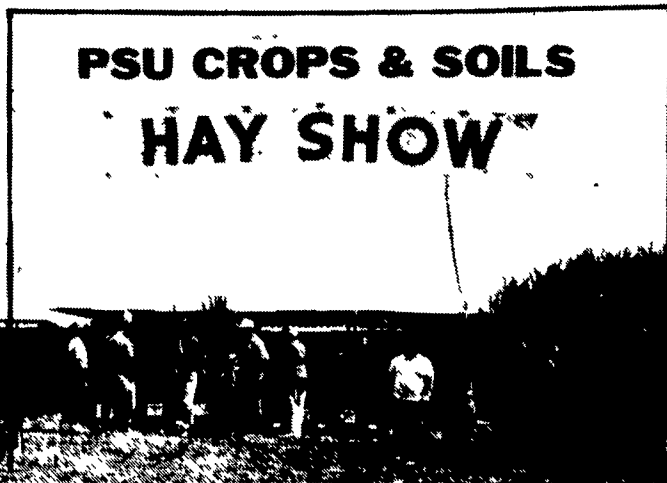
Y Brookside Farm, in Belleville, also won the grand championship in the third category with his late cut alfalfa entry with less than 10 percent grasses.

### AG PROGRESS DAYS HAY SHOW RESULTS

Class 1: 1. Melvin G. Miller. 2. John Valkovec.

3. Ron Bush. Class 2: 1. Glenn K. Carper. 2. John Valkovec. 3. Milford Nisley. Class 3: 1. Jeff Reed. Class 4: 1. John Valkovec. 2. Y. Brookside Farm. 3. Dave and Bonnie Klinger. Class 5: 1. Mack Farms. Class 6: 1. Mack Farms. 2. Harrop Farm. 3. Jesse L. Diem. Class 7: 1. Carl Gates. 2. Mack Farms. 3. Travis Harshmon. Class 8: 1. Excelsior Farm. 2. Carl Gates. 3. Mack Farms. Class 9: 1. Carl Gates. 2. J. William Henry. 3. Travis Harshmon. Class 10: 1. Nevin G. Rice. 2. Y. Brookside Farm. 3. Excelsior Farm. Class 11: 1.

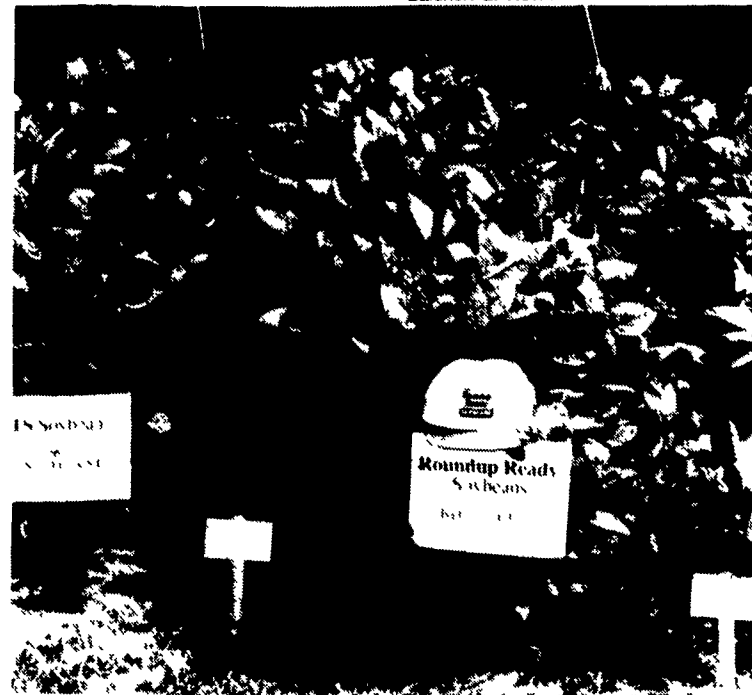
Robert Bieber. 2. Heidel Hollow Farm. Class 12: 1. Robert Bieber. 2. Jay McCarrell. 3. Heidel Hollow Farm. Class 14: 1. Jay McCarrell. Class 17: 1. Jay McCarrell. Class 18: 1. Jay McCarrell. Class 19: 1. Jay McCarrell. Class 21: 1. Don C. Myers. Class 22: 1. Y. Brookside Farm. 2. Don C. Myers. 3. Glenn K. Carper. Class 23: 1. Heidel Hollow Farm. Class 24: 1. Y. Brookside Farm. 2. Nevin G. Rice. 3. Kenneth L. Baldner. Class 27: 1. Heidel Hollow Farm. Class 30: 1. Kenneth L. Baldner. 2. Nevin G. Rice.



The Soils and Crops tent provides a weed identification display with live plants, the annual hay show entries, and some small exhibits of new plants, such as the Roundup Ready soybean and other genetics varieties.



Lester Vough hay judge for the annual Ag Progress Hay Show, looks over a sample of alfalfa.



These Roundup Ready soybeans are coming out for the 1996 season and are on display at Ag Progress Days.



Chris Herr, PDA deputy secretary of regulatory programs, talks to a visitor to the agriculture department's booth at Ag Progress Days.

## The Business Side

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covering it so that it doesn't spoil. Making a forage plan is very important. The idea of projecting ahead is so that there are no expensive surprises later, such as:

- Sudden feed changes
- Lack of quality forage
- Buying forage when the price is highest
- Trying to stretch forages so that less will be purchased, but in the process not getting enough

forage into the cows to keep milk production up. The county extension office has forms available to help farmers with forage planning. In the next article we will talk about herd health. If you have any questions or comments about these articles, please address them to the Lancaster Farming office, and we will be happy to answer them.