

Ag Progress Days Dates Announces, Activities Planned

New Ag Classrooms Prepare Students

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — When you think of high-tech industries, does farming come to mind?

It will, if you attend Penn State's Ag Progress Days, August 12-14.

A new precision agriculture demonstration heads the list of production-related attractions at this year's event, according to Ag Progress Days manager Bob Oberheim.

"Precision agriculture is a hot topic in the farm community right now," Oberheim said. "By using the latest technology in global positioning systems, geographic information systems and on-board computers in combines and tractors, growers can adjust their management practices to become more efficient."

These technologies can help producers to map variations in crop yield within a single field.

"For instance, this information can enable farmers to apply pesticides and fertilizers only where they're needed instead of across an entire field, which saves them money and minimizes environmental impact," Oberheim explained.

Ag Progress Days visitors can attend precision agriculture pre-

sentations by Penn State faculty and cooperative extension staff, followed by field demonstrations featuring the technology.

Oberheim said other popular field demonstrations will be back, including no-till vegetable planting, hay mowing, baling, round bale handling and composting.

The focal point of Penn State's Ag Progress Days displays will be the College of Agricultural Sciences Exhibits Building.

The building's theme this year will focus on the changing shape of Pennsylvania agriculture. Visitors will see a series of interactive exhibits that will highlight how agriculture — Pennsylvania's number one industry — is adapting to the global marketplace, consumer trends and other business and environmental issues.

Other exhibits, tours and workshops will feature the latest research and information on crops and soils, dairy and livestock production, integrated pest management, conservation practices and woodlot management.

More than 300 commercial and noncommercial exhibitors also will be on hand to display the newest goods and services.

In addition, a variety of family and consumer-oriented attractions

are planned, including a new family living exhibits and demonstrations, storytelling, horse exhibitions, an insect zoo, live animal displays, lawn and garden advice, antique exhibits and SciQ, a TV-style game show.

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 Rock Springs, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, with extended hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free from July 14 to August 14 or visit the Ag Progress Days site on the World Wide Web at www.cas.psu.edu/docs/AGIS/APD/APD.HTML.

(Continued from Page A25) work station; a small laboratory for water testing; a food science center; and other equipment. The same classroom will be set up and ready to work next school year. In addition, according to Henry, the room will include 14 Internet-capable stations for use by the students.

Instructors at Solanco include Carey Kalupson, ag mechanics; Ron Althoff, specialized production and mechanics; and Dr. Arba Henry, ag science.

Penn Manor

Before the end of the school year, Carole Fay of Penn Manor High School in Millersville noted that they had moved students into the classroom recently constructed.

Brand new construction included an ag mechanics laboratory.

The old classroom, gutted out at the time of the interview, was still under construction to accommodate a classroom and office space.

A feature of the work at Penn Manor was a new greenhouse addition, measuring 16 feet by 60 feet, separated into three zones. Work at presstime had not been

complete.

The unique features of the greenhouse include controls for environment, lighting, and other factors in growing specialized crops as part of student projects.

Construction at Penn Manor in Millersville began in the fall of 1995 by Wohlsen, Lancaster, at a cost of \$28 million. Included is about 7,000 square feet of space for all agriculture classrooms, laboratories, and office. Expected completion of construction is November this year.

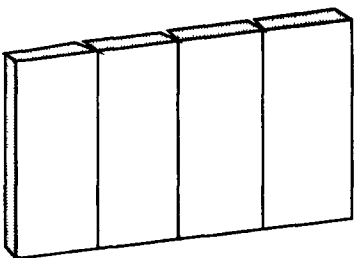
The Penn Manor ag science program includes more than 400 students grades nine through 12. Next year, a special greenhouse course, an additional biotech course, and a records and system analysis course will be offered according to Fay.

At the beginning of the project, Fay noted, "We developed some of the designs and worked with the architect to install several features to meet the needs of students. We were involved in the whole planning."

Instructors at Penn Manor include Mike Burton, ag mechanics teacher; Gus Birchler, department coordinator; Eric Dixon, ag teacher, ag mechanics; and Fay.



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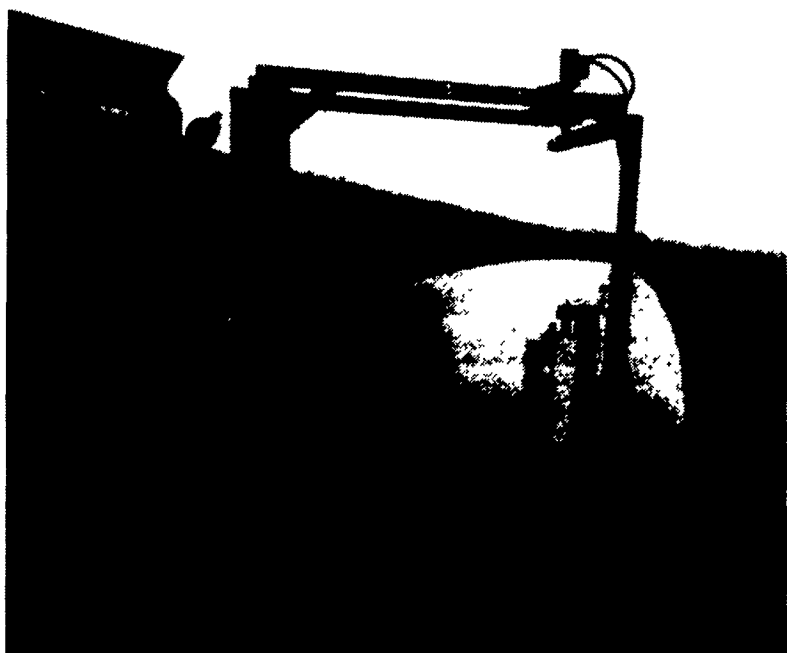
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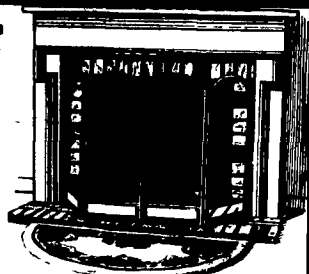
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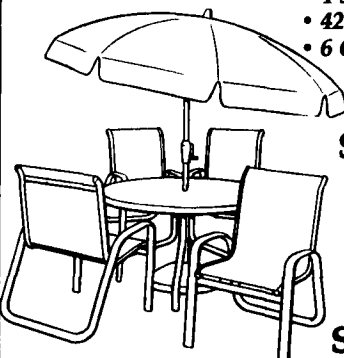
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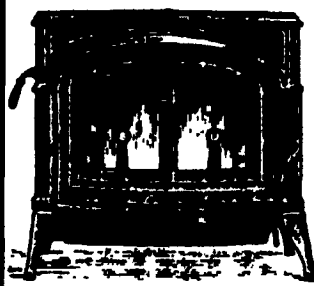
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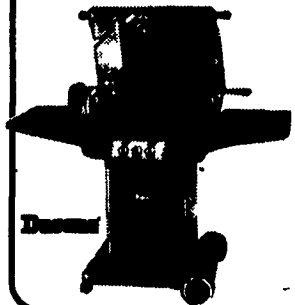
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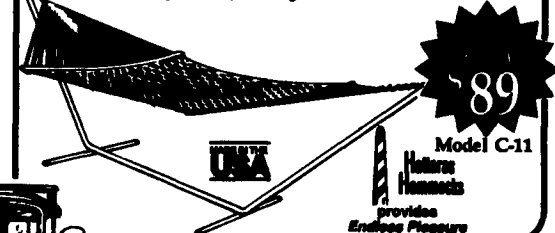
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