



## AG PROGRESS DAYS

"Pennsylvania Agriculture  
"A Moving Force in a Changing World"

### AG PROGRESS DAYS FAMILY ACTIVITIES STEP INTO TECHNOLOGICAL AGE

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — It's food, fun and learning for young and old alike at the new ImAGination Station at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, August 12-14. This year's exhibits for the younger set have a whole new look that promise kids and adults hours of fun and an introduction to the world of interactive science.

Participants can begin by making their own personal edition of the "ImAGination Station Times," which gives children a chance to have their own computer-generated photo with their favorite bug published at Ag Progress Days. Kids of all ages can come and participate in the following adventures and learn how computers and megabytes are advancing agricultural sciences.

- Plant a "virtual" tree and watch how it will grow over the next twenty years.

- Find out what separates the good bugs from the bad bugs; learn how we can't live without them but are learning to live in balance with them.

- Make your own rain gauge and see what impact weather has on our food supply.

- Explore the science and art of agriculture in your own community through the new and innovative 4-H and FFA programs.

- Use your personal "ImAGination Station Times" as a guide to the ag-related people, activities and places in your county.

Just outside ImAGination Station, animal lovers can enjoy the fuzzy antics of baby animals in the Farm Animal Learning Center sponsored by Students for the Responsible Use of Animals. Shaver's Creek Environmental Center also will display owls, hawks, snakes and turtles outside ImAGination Station. If these two displays aren't enough of an animal fix, visitors can see live llamas and emus in the Dairy and Livestock Tent 2.

Other activities for the younger crowd include Jr. SciQ contest, where participants test their agricultural knowledge in a TV quiz-show format. The game will be played daily at 11 a.m. and Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the College Exhibits Building Theatre.

Award-winning short story author and master storyteller Jan Kinney will regale audiences with daily noon-time performances in

the College Exhibits Building Theatre.

The new Family Room exhibit features various displays focusing on issues related to raising children, living within an income and family health.

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 through August 14, or visit the Ag Progress Days site on the World Wide Web, <http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/AGIS/APD/APD.HTML>.

## Ag Progress Feature Precision Farming

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, says Ag Progress Days manager Bob Oberheim.

"Precision agriculture is a hot topic in the farm community right now, Oberheim says. "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 yields 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 explains.

Ag Progress Days visitors can attend precision agriculture presentations by Penn State faculty and cooperative extension staff, followed by field demonstrations featuring the technology.

Oberheim says 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 work-

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

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](http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/AGIS/APD/APD.HTML).

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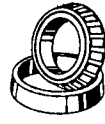
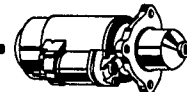
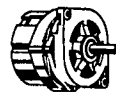
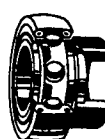
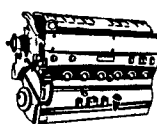
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