

# Fairs Are For Everyone!

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs has been in existence since 1912 and was formed to promote the growth and improvement of Agricultural Fairs, Associations and Societies within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

That first year there were Thirteen members and we have steadily grown to our current membership of One-hundred and Twelve. Each Agricultural Fair, Association or Society has at its focal point the education and showcase of agriculture, horticulture, etc. and over Seven million fairgoers each year can attest to the quality of what we have to offer.

At Fairs exhibitors compete for prize money, ribbons, or merely enjoy the competition. The following are only samples in which there is competition - livestock, hay & grain, vegetables, fruits, & nuts, baked and canned goods, flowers, sewing, art, grange exhibits, contests, and others. This can involve both young and old alike! Contact Fairs of your interest to see what areas of competition are available.

For further information you can - contact any Fair; write to PA State Association of County Fairs, P.O. Box 546, Gratz, PA 17030; visit us on the web at: [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org) or e-mail us at: [PSACF@pafairs.org](mailto:PSACF@pafairs.org)

Best Wishes in 1998 and...  
"Have We Got A Fair For YOU!!"

## Have We Got A Fair For YOU!

### Local Youth Receives Cargill Scholarship

SPRING MILLS (Centre Co.) - Christyn Rossman, a 1998 graduate of Penns Valley Junior/Senior High, has been awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship by Cargill. Christyn is the daughter of Barb Rossman of Spring Mills.

Christyn plans to study international business at Penn State. The scholarship is one of 250 awarded by Cargill to 1998 high

school graduates from U.S. farm families in 46 states. This year's scholarship program, in its 13th year, attracted 2,432 applicants.

The \$250,000 Cargill Scholarship Program for Rural America is designed to recognize and encourage the academic achievement, accomplishments and talents of young people from farm families throughout the United States.

## Pennsylvania Fairs

"The Showplace of Agriculture"

### Northwest Pennsylvania

| County Fair                           | Location                      | Phone           | Date           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Armstrong Dayton Fair                 | Dayton                        | (814) 257-8680  | Aug 17-22      |
| Butler Butler Fair                    | Prospect                      | (724) 538-9014  | June 26-July 4 |
|                                       | Butler                        | (724) 482-4000  | Aug. 10-15     |
|                                       | Butler Farm Show              | (814) 546-2574  | Aug 16-22      |
| Cameron Cameron County Fair           | Emporium                      | (814) 275-3929  | July 5-11      |
| Clarion Clarion County Fair           | New Bethlehem                 | (814) 755-3797  | June 30-July 4 |
|                                       | Wolf's Corners Fair           | (814) 765-4629  | Aug. 3-8       |
| Clearfield Clearfield County Fair     | Clearfield                    | (814) 743-6716  | Sept 22-26     |
|                                       | Harmony Grange Fair           | (814) 425-2463  | Aug. 3-8       |
| Crawford Cochranon Community Fair     | Westover                      | (814) 425-2463  | Aug. 3-8       |
|                                       | Cochranon                     | (814) 425-2463  | Aug. 3-8       |
|                                       | Crawford County Fair          | (814) 333-7400  | Aug 22-29      |
|                                       | Spartansburg Community Fair   | (814) 654-7250  | Sept. 6-12     |
| Elk Elk County Fair                   | Kersey                        | (814) 885-8376  | Aug 11-15      |
| Erie Albion Area Fair                 | Albion                        | (814) 756-4833  | Sept. 15-19    |
|                                       | Erie County Fair at Wattsburg | (814) 739-2703  | Sept. 1-6      |
|                                       | North East Community Fair     | (814) 725-5192  | Sept 17-19     |
|                                       | Waterford Community Fair      | (814) 796-4490  | Sept. 7-12     |
| Indiana Green Township Community Fair | Waterford                     | (814) 796-4490  | Sept. 7-12     |
|                                       | Cookport                      | (724) 254-4975  | Sept 14-19     |
|                                       | Indiana County Fair           | (724) 479-8282  | Aug 30-Sept 5  |
|                                       | Ox Hill Community Fair        | (724) 397-4449  | Sept 7-12      |
| Jefferson Jefferson County Fair       | Plumville                     | (724) 397-4449  | Sept 7-12      |
|                                       | Brookville                    | (814) 849-5530  | July 19-25     |
|                                       | Sykesville Ag & Youth Fair    | (814) 894-5723  | Aug 10-15      |
| Lawrence Lawrence County Fair         | New Castle                    | (724) 654-7745  | Aug 17-22      |
| McKean McKean County Fair             | Smethport                     | (814) 837-6447  | Aug 16-22      |
| Mercer Jamestown Community Fair       | Jamestown                     | (724) 932-3456  | Sept 8-12      |
|                                       | Jefferson Township Fair       | (724) 662-2860  | July 20-25     |
|                                       | Mercer County Grange Fair     | (724) 748-4007  | July 5-11      |
|                                       | Stoneboro Fair                | (724) 376-2852  | Sept 2-7       |
|                                       | Transfer Harvest Home Fair    | 1(800) 214-4847 | Aug 9-15       |
| Venango Venango County Fair           | Franklin                      | (814) 437-7716  | Aug 10-16      |
| Warren Warren County Fair             | Pittsfield                    | (814) 757-8668  | Aug 10-15      |

### Northeast Pennsylvania

| County Fair                      | Location    | Phone          | Date          |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| Bradford Troy Fair               | Troy        | (717) 297-2823 | July 27 Aug 1 |
| Centre Centre County Grange Fair | Centre Hall | (814) 364-9212 | Aug 28-Sept 3 |
| Clinton Clinton County Fair      | Mackeyville | (717) 726-4148 | Aug 8-15      |
| Columbia Bloomsburg Fair         | Bloomsburg  | (717) 784-4949 | Sept 26 Oct 3 |
| Dauphin Gratz Fair               | Gratz       | (717) 365-3201 | Sept 20-26    |
| Juniata Juniata County Fair      | Port Royal  | (717) 527-2303 | Sept 5-12     |
| Luzerne Luzerne County Fair      | Dallas      | (717) 675-FAIR | Sept 9-13     |
| Lycoming Lycoming County Fair    | Hughesville | (717) 784-0487 | July 16-25    |

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## Minnesota Researchers Look For Clues To Improved Breeding In Pigs

DES MOINES, Iowa — A better understanding of how the local immune system keeps the uterus clean in pigs may lead to improved artificial insemination strategies, according to a University of Minnesota researcher.

Previous studies have shown in horses, immune cell migration into the uterus following breeding removes excess sperm and bacterial contaminants to ensure a friendly environment for embryos. When mares failed to remove this "inflammation" before embryo descent fertility was reduced.

University of Minnesota researcher Kevin Rozeboom may have found a similar occurrence in sows. In his study, sustained levels of those same immune cells occurred long after insemination and may create a potentially hostile environment for eggs, sperm and embryos, when the last of multiple artificial inseminations is performed during late estrus.

Rozeboom notes that mares and sows are the only two domesticated animals where sperm is released directly into the uterus and doesn't need to pass through a cervix. And when artificial insemination is used on sows, it's often done several times during estrus, instead of just once as in cattle. That's because the onset of estrus in pigs doesn't accurately predict the exact time of ovulation. So multiple inseminations improve the odds of fertilization and a larger litter of pigs.

Rozeboom and University of Minnesota researchers Bo Crabo and Mats Troedsson found that after insemination, the level of certain immune cells called polymor-

phonuclear neutrophil (PMN) cells, increases dramatically in the uterus of pigs. In fact 95 percent of all the cells they flushed from the sow uterus after breeding were PMN cells. "Those are cells that engulf and clean up contaminants that are introduced into the uterus," Rozeboom said.

Rozeboom found that when semen was introduced into the uterus, PMN levels began to rise within 6 hours and peaked at about 12 hours. Those peak levels were sustained for another 12 hours before they began to decline. In other words, an inflammatory response in the form of PMN migration into the uterus appears to normally occur following breeding.

Unfortunately, when producers unintentionally perform artificial insemination during late estrus or just after estrus, the sustaining PMN numbers coinciding with a decreasing uterine movement may have a negative effect on fertility. Why? Because embryos enter the uterine horn quickly after fertilization (within two to three days after ovulation) and because high levels of PMN cells remain in the uterus where they may directly or indirectly effect sperm and embryo survival, Rozeboom suggests.

Rozeboom presented his research to scientists gathered in

Des Moines for the joint Midwest meeting of the American Society of Animal Science and the American Dairy Science Association March 16-18. His research earned the National Pork Producer's Council Innovation Award for basic research.

His findings appear to confirm earlier studies that showed an insemination at the very end of estrus often cancels any advantages gained by multiple inseminations during estrus.

More than 40 percent of sows in the United States are bred by artificial insemination and in some areas more than 80 percent are bred by artificial insemination.

"Artificial insemination can be just as good as natural insemination," Rozeboom said. "But there are so many more procedures involved and a mistake in one can lead to serious problems."

Rozeboom said additional study is needed to determine the effect of the immune response on embryos and exactly how the response is triggered. Once those questions are answered, more efficient precise breeding programs could be developed to minimize the immune response.

His research is supported by the Minnesota Pork Producers Association.

