

Approximatly 200 farmers from Maryland and Pennsylvania attended the Ag Showcase Day as part of the Cecil County Fair on Tuesday. Field demonstrations and educational programs were again part of this annual event.



## Ag Showcase Again Part Of Cecil Fair

For the 18th year, local equipment dealers, ag suppliers, the Cecil County Fair board and the Maryland Cooperative extension teamed up to put on Ag Showcase Day at the fair. Held at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area, this year's program included educational features on interactive hay and forage judging demonstrations conducted by Dr. Les Vough, extension forage specialist.

David Wilson, Cecil County extension agent, said this educational feature was for those who are buying or selling hay or silage. Farmers buying want to get the most for their money, and those selling want to know how to price their forages according to nutritional value.

Wilson said the showcase has become a social event as well as a place for farmers to get to see different brands of the newest equipment working in the fields side by side. In addition, the popular tractor ride and drive course gave interested farmers to a hands-on view of the new tractors and skid loaders.

Field demonstrations included mower/conditioner; wet hay baling and wrapping; and dry hay baling. Equipment dealers working the demonstrations incluced Stackey, Kennedyville; Hoober, Inc., Middletown, Ag Industrial, Rising Sun, and Cooper Equipment, Cecilton.

## **Beekeeping Focus**

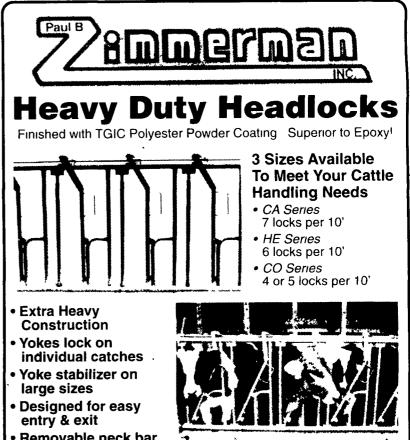
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Beekeeping is a rapidly changing avocation. Not only must beekeepers manage their bees, they also must deal with recent infestations of parasitic mites and related diseases that can decimate their colonies.

To help current and prospective beekeepers keep their hives healthy and productive, Mid-Atlantic Apiculture — a five-state conosortium administered by Penn State's Department of Entomology — is sponsoring a short course titled "The Changing Fundamentals of Beekeeping,' Aug. 28-30. The course will be held in State College at the Days Inn-Penn State, with laboratory and field sessions at various locations around Penn State's University Park campus.

Bee experts from Penn State, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the University of Delaware will offer sessions on honey bee biology, seasonal management, mites and diseases, honey bee behavior, computer software and the Internet, honey bee research, honey crops, and marketing.

A registration fee of \$90 includes all conference sessions. parking, and a reception. Registrations received after Aug. 14 are \$100. One-day registration is \$50. Walk-in registrations will be accepted as space allows.

For more information, call the Office of Conferences and Short Courses at (814) 865-8301.



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