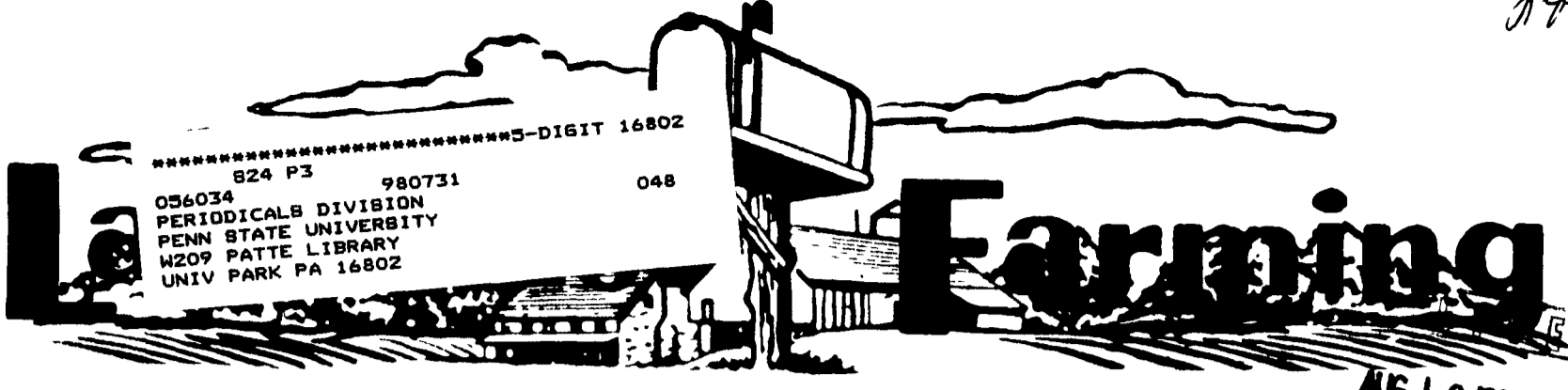


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AUG 18 1998

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Penn State Ag Progress Days Open Aug. 18-20



ROCKSPRING (Centre Co) — Visitors can take a cutting-edge lawn tractor out for a whirl, participate in a high-tech agricultural quiz show, or find out how to map a Pennsylvania farm using satellite and computers at Penn State's Ag Progress Days Aug. 18-20.

Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the event is held at the University's Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, near State College.

The theme for many of the college's exhibits "Growing Pennsylvania: A Precision Business," focuses on how computers, space-age tools and technology can improve how we grow our crops and manage our natural resources.

Several new displays will explore precision agriculture and its role on Pennsylvania farms "The use of computers and satellite technology to pinpoint crop yields, insect populations and land use patterns offers a tremendous change in farming as we enter the 21st century," said David Wagner, assistant professor of agricultural engineering.

At the College Exhibits Building, visitors can learn how farmers can use precision agriculture and satellite technologies. A field mapping demonstration will allow visitors to pinpoint the location of their farm and then print out an aerial-view map of the property. A display on remote sensing technology will show how farmers and scientists can use computers, infrared equipment, and other sensing tools to collect data from areas as small as a single plant leaf to acre-sized plots of farmland.

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Penn State Ag

PROGRESS

1998

—Our Annual—

Ag Progress Issue

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Scenes from Ag Progress Days of years past remind us that this is the week for the annual Penn State Ag Progress Days at Rockspring in Centre County. The combination of new products and machinery along with the research results and the new technology shown by the educators of agricultural science provides the reason why many farmers and agribusiness leaders will take a trip to "Happy Valley" Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

Empire Farm Days Play In Seneca Falls Last Week

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

SENECA FALLS, N.Y.—"If your business is agriculture, your business is here."

Melaine Wickham, show manager for Empire Farm Days, works on this premise and the results are obvious. This multi-state farm show, headquartered at the Rodman Lott & Son farm just south of Seneca Falls, was held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to record crowds and exhibitor-expressed satisfaction.

The show originated in the 1930's as the state potato field days at a different farm each year. As the potato industry changed and other agribusinesses wanted to participate, starting eleven years ago, the show has been held at the present permanent location. Wickham said that in her involvement over the last 12 years, she has seen many changes. For example: the exhibitor list has grown from 250 to nearly 600. The dairy seminar program has become larger and more focused. And this year a livestock

handling seminar was added. "But everything is new every year," Wickham said. "The exhibitors always bring their new products and machinery. We have expanded the show site on the east side of the field this year. We always have large field demonstrations." Governor George Pataki added his presence to the event late Tuesday afternoon and toured the grounds, accepting the Crystal Apple Award from the New York State Farm Bureau and providing

photo opportunities for the farm press. "Farming is a common denominator between our past and our future," Governor Pataki said. "Our heritage is based in agriculture, and our future—especially the future of our rural communities—depends on the success of our farm families, which is why we've worked so hard to make sure our farm families thrive and survive." At the conservation awards banquet Wednesday, Donald David-

sen, New York Commissioner of Agriculture, presented the State Environmental Stewardship Award to the Art and Ruth Graulich family, owners of Angus Acres, Sharon Springs, N.Y. The Graulich farm, now also farmed by son David and his wife, Suzanne, and their young daughter Lara, has been in the family since 1948. Their first conservation efforts as a Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District cooperator. Since that time the

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