

Animal Greenhouse Highlights

Livestock Exhibits At Ag Progress Days

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The barn of the future may note a big, wooden structure with weather vane. You can see the shape of farm buildings to come at Penn State's Ag Progress Days August 18-20.

The Animal Sciences Facility will showcase the latest trend in animal agriculture: "greenhouses," constructed with modern building materials, that serve as low-cost and surprisingly sturdy farm buildings, says David Wolfgang, veterinary science researcher in Penns State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"A big concern in animal agriculture today is raising products cost-effectively," Wolfgang explains. "The Animal Sciences Facility demonstrates one of the cost-cutting innovations in animal shelters

"The event will introduce a new concept in livestock shows, with more emphasis on the knowledge and ability of the exhibitor, and less on the live animal," Henning explains. "The skillathon and show will take much of the pressure off young exhibitors to buy expensive animals in order to have a chance to 'win.' This will be an outstand-

ing educational event for youth and an opportunity for training of agents, teachers and leaders involved with such projects."

The deadline for Skillathon and Lamb Show applications was August 10. For more information, contact Henning at (814) 863-3670.

Penn State's Ag Progress Days features more than 500 acres of educational and com-

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mercial 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 until August 20 or visit the Ag Progress Days site on the World Wide Web at <http://apd.cas.psu.edu>.

"With this type of facility, today's barn could be just metal tubes for the frame with plastic sheeting for walls. The sides roll up for ventilation, and solar protection is built right into the plastic. The resulting structure can be built at a substantial reduction in initial cost compared to a standard barn, and plastic walls are projected to last seven to 10 years. They have been effective even in northern climates."

The exhibit, which is a joint effort between Penn State's Departments of Dairy and Animal Science and Veterinary Science, will include an animal diagnostic lab display, a cattle breeding database, a meat irradiation and food safety display, and the latest Penn State research on induced dairy lactation.

Several other animal-related displays will be featured in the Dairy and Livestock Tents Team Dairy, a service offered by Penn State Cooperative Extension specialists, University faculty and industry representatives, will unveil four newly educational program areas to help Pennsylvania dairy producers thrive in the changing agribusiness environment

The four new program areas include Systematic Dairy Business Growth, Specialization Identifying Opportunities and Transition From Dairying.

Information also will be available on other Team Dairy services, including the Dairy Farm Business Summary and the Dairy Management and Profitability (Dairy MAP, programs, and the Nutrient Management Educational program.

Other presentations will include the Dairy Advisory Teams, comprised of agribusiness representatives who work with 30 dairy farm families to develop and achieve a set of goals; the Dairy Heifer Growth display, which will highlight the results of current research in heifer rearing techniques; and the Dairy Grazing display, which will feature pasture, feeding and supplementation strategies for high-producing cows.

The Ag Progress Days Youth Skillathon and Lamb Show will be held on August 19 at the Junior Livestock Exhibition Tent. The Skillathon will allow all Pennsylvania 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members with lamb projects to demonstrate their knowledge of lamb production, nutrition, quality assurance and meats in a quiz format. Participants also will take part in a lamb show and will be judged independently on showmanship in the competition. Top finishers in the skillathon and lamb show will be awarded cash premiums. Winners of each age group of the Overall Outstanding Youth Awards will be presented savings bonds, according to William Henning, associate professor of dairy and animal science.



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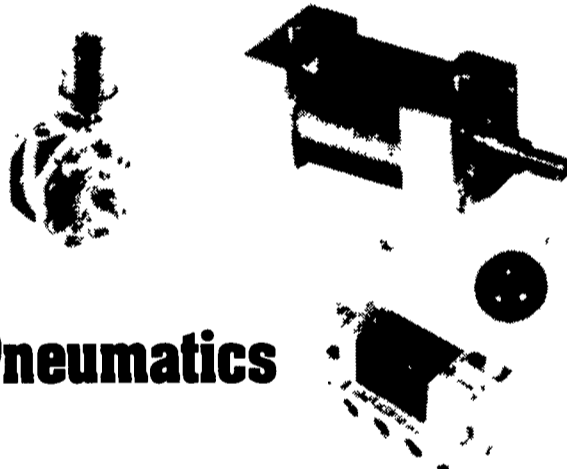
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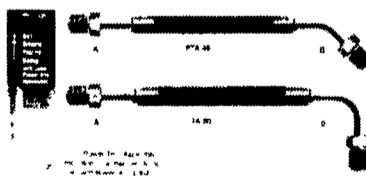
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