Horses And Their Contributions Featured At Ag Progress Days

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co) — They may not pull many carriages any more, but horses and related industries represent \$4 billion to Pennsylvania agriculture — and they will bring excitement and fun to Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 18-20.

The Equine Educational Program presents a wide range of exhibits and activities to highlight the many ways that horses can contribute to the economy culture of Commonwealth, according to Pat Comerford, horse program coordinator for Penn State Cooperative Extension.

"We'd like to give people an understanding of the scope and diversity of the horse industry, and showcase Penn State's teaching, extension and youth programs," she said. "This year, we also will introduce Penn State administrators to the horse community and present several horse breeds from the United States and other coun-

The Equine Educational Program will feature demon-

strations and clinics in the Horse Arena on Main Street at the Ag Progress Days site. On Tuesday, Aug. 18, a clinic called techniques for "Handling the Young Horse" will be offered. Several breed clinics will feature the history, special characteristics and uses of various equine breeds.

On Wednesday, Aug 19, Penn State Equine Extension Assistant Brian Egan will demonstrate techniques for working with young horses and youth. Breed and Therapeutic riding demonstrations will occur throughout the day. Miniature horses from Foalie-a-Deux Farm also will be on display, along with other breeds. Industry representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

A highlight of the Wednesday afternoon activities will be "taking the Lead," a riding and equestrian skill class, with several special "pupils": Penn State President Graham Spanier, College of Agricultural Sciences Dean Robert Steele, and Department of Dairy and Animal Science Head Terry

"It'll be a lot of fun - with a few surprises, too," Comerford says. "Our administrators are being really good sports to participate. We'll give them some simple lessons and exercises in horsemanship, while introducing them to the horse community. Spectators will get a chance to appreciate what it takes to ride a horse — without actually being in the saddle."

The Wednesday evening program will feature a 4-H mounted flag presentation, draft horse clinics and draft horse driving demonstrations. Thursday will bring demonstrations from the Lion Country Pony Club, the Standardbred Retirement and Adoption Association, International Trotting and Pacing Association, and the Keystone Dressage Demonstration and Drill Team.

During the entire Ag Progress Days event, the Equine Exhibits Area will feature displays on equine management, housing and facilities and Penn State's undergraduate education extension programs.

Penn State Ag

Exhibits also will focus on breed and youth organizations, therapeutic riding, feed, tack, equipment and other aspects of the commercial horse industry.

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 psu.edu.

Rock Springs, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 pm 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

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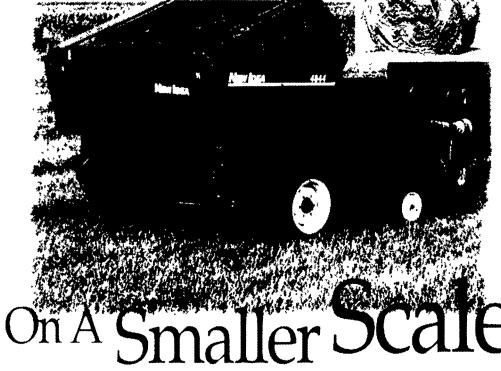
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