

Gov. Ridge Visits Ag Progress Days Unveils New PDA Export Logo

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Managing Editor

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — "Nothing speaks to our heritage in the Commonwealth and the country more than the agricultural community in terms of personal values and community values," said Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Ridge.

Speaking at the government day luncheon at Ag Progress Days Wednesday, Gov. Ridge said the importance of agriculture makes it our number one industry now and for a long time to come.

In his introduction Pennsylvania's Ag Secretary Samuel Hayes, Jr., called Gov. Ridge a leader who knows what it means to represent the men, women, and children of Pennsylvania.

"Pennsylvania and the nation need leadership," Hayes said. "The wholesome character of Pennsylvania needs a leader that understands the magnitude of that office. And speaking of agriculture, we need a leader who understands the importance of this great industry of Pennsylvania. We have at the pre-



A view of Ag Progress Days exhibit field.



Dr. Darwin Braund, left, will become the new curator of the Pasto Agricultural Museum at the end of the year when the founder of the museum, Dr. Jerome Pasto retires.

sent time such a leader. Agriculture in Pennsylvania has a friend in Gov. Tom Ridge.

"We are proud to be the bread basket of the nation," Ridge said. "That is why Ag Progress Days are so important. We recognize the past, but we also recognize the prosperity of the future."

"Every family farm is a business. We need predictable environmental policy. We need predictable tax policy. We need to make farming profitable, and Penn State and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has helped to reach these goals.

"Sec. Hayes and I both feel strongly about the need to open international markets. We think the best opportunity of agriculture's growth is in exports. We have reached a six-year high of \$1 billion. Obviously, agriculture is responsible for much of the economic activity throughout the Commonwealth. It is imperative

that we develop this business of exports," Ridge said.

To substantiate this belief, Gov. Ridge and Sec. Hayes unveiled a new Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture logo that shows the world focused on Pennsylvania and reads, "Pennsylvania Agriculture, Products for the Planet." The department now has 18 foreign export offices opened for Pennsylvanians to do business with products and services.

Gov. Ridge toured the Penn State research displays and posed for photographs in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's tent.

Penn State University's President Graham Spanier Ag Progress Days was a favorite event, not only because of all that is here to see and do, but also because of the traditions of Penn State.

"I always look forward to Ag Progress Days," Spanier said. "We are proud of the university's roll in

the development of Pennsylvania's agriculture and related industry. We celebrate a special partnership in this event.

"Penn State's roll in promoting the competitiveness of Pennsylvania's agriculture is our contribution to its economic development. We depend on a close relationship with industries in the Commonwealth. Agriculture remains at the

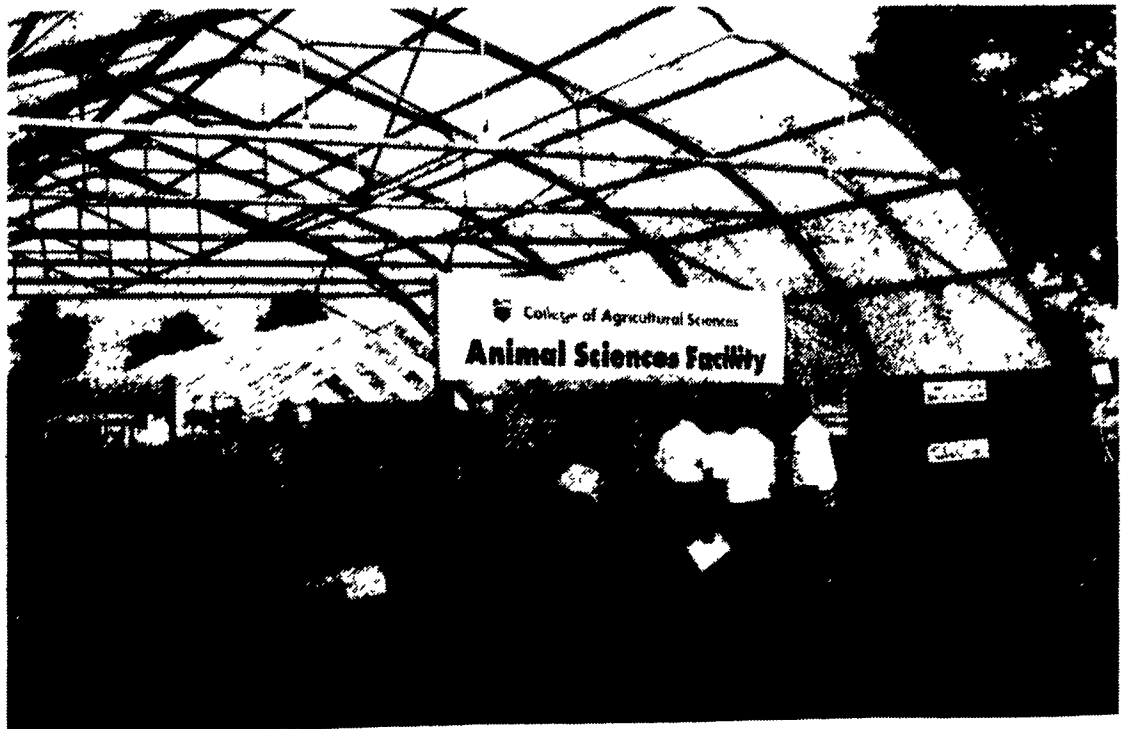
top of this list. Our continuing commitment to production agriculture is culminated in the increased efforts on outreach at Penn State. The reorganization of cooperative extension makes it possible to deploy more quickly and effectively the knowledge resources of the College of Agricultural Sciences and other Colleges at the University. This

addresses the challenges that families face.

"The College of Agricultural Sciences and the Penn State cooperative extension have a wealth of experience in working with Pennsylvania's young people and their families."

Sam Minor, a Washington

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Penn State Animal Sciences Facility created a lot of interest with this display that included a cow and a calf.



Don Evans, left, played host to international visitors at Ag Progress Days. At center-right is Gov. Tom Ridge, and Ag Sec. Samuel Hayes Jr.