## Fun, Education For Kids At Ag Progress

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) – Kids can eat, learn, and have fun at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 17-19.

The "Family Learning Hub," located near food vendors on Main street between West 8th and West 9th, will offer fun, educational exhibits and demonstrations important to everyone, whether they live on a farm or in the city. The Hub will include:

 ImAGination Station. Here, the science of agriculture comes to life. Visitors can begin by making their own personal edition of the "ImAGination Station Times," which includes their own computer-generated photo. this year's "Times" will include a map and clues to the ImAgination Station Treasure Hunt, a new event that sends kids scouring stations throughout the Ag Progress Days site for interesting information about Pennsylvania agriculture. Kids who return with all of the information win a prize. Stations for younger children will be located exclusively within ImAGination Station.

In addition, Awareness Foundation will help kids learn about seed germination by making "Beany Babies," a soybean seed in a jewelry bag that kids hang around their necks The seed will germinate in 24 hours -- instant "Beany Baby!" Other interactive displays will be presented on plant pathology, food sciences and entomology. Kids also can visit displays on 4-H and FFA, the national student organization that prepares members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.

• Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. Here's a unique chance to get a closer look at some native Pennsylvania animal species Visitors will see live raptors, snakes, turtles and frogs, as well as hands-on natural history exhibits.

• Farm Animal Learning Center. Visitors can learn about farm animal welfare, including animal care and use issues. Hosted by Pennsylvanians for the Responsible. Use of Animals, the exhibit will include dairy and beef calves, goats, lambs, pigs, miniature horses, chickens "retired" greyhounds, plus other farm and companion animals. The exhibit also will feature special information about the myths and facts of farm animal production.

• Family Room Building. Kids can take a break at the Family Room's "Kid's Corner." reading stories and working on art projects. Materials such as safety scissors, glue and visors will be provided. Then, take time to explore exhibits and demonstrations of importance to Pennsylvania's families, such as health, cooking, nutrition, character, safety, finances and tobacco prevention. Some exhibits will feature puppet shows, games and other interactive ways to learn. Participants also can go on a treasure hunt within the building and win a prize.

Other Ag Progress Days activities for the younger crowd include the SciQ Junior contest,

where contestants test their agricultural knowledge in a TV quiz-show format. The game will be played Tuesday at 10 a.m., and Wednesday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the College Exhibits Building Theatre. Award-winning short story author and master storyteller Jan Kinney will weave her magic tales in the theatre on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday at noon.

At the Horse Arena (Main Street, behind the Special Events Building), visitors can see 4-H and FFA youth compete for prizes, or watch the Pennsylvania State Police Mounted Drill Team perform. The drill team also will ride through the show grounds. Children also may enjoy wandering through the new corn maze on East 5th Street.

At the Natural Resource Conservation Partnership area (West 11th Street), Kids can see a real soil profile in a walk-in pit, make T-shirts with fish prints, practice casting for their next fishing trip, see; mounted wildlife specimens and use their sense of touch to guess items that affect the soil and water quality of the land.

## Zimmerman To Leave Farm Bureau For New Position

GLENMONT, N.Y. — New York Farm Bureau's longtime director of governmental relations, Paul F. "Rick" Zimmerman, will be soon leaving his post with the state's largest general farm advocacy organization, after nearly 16 years of dedicated service to the organization and its members, and an extensive list of accomplishments that have benefited the agricultural industry in New York State.

Zimmerman will begin his new position with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets as its new deputy commissioner for economic development and agricultural policy in mid-August.

"On behalf of the nearly 30,000 members of New York Farm Bureau, we have greatly appreciated the years of dedicated and exemplary service he has committed to the organization and to New York State's agricultural industry," said John Lincoln, president of New York Farm Bureau. "We wish Rick the best of luck!"

In 1983, Zimmerman joined the New York Farm Bureau staff to focus on public policy issues after winning the Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet Competition at the organization's annual meeting. "Once I started talking about agricultural policy issues, I knew my career path should direct me toward serving the agricultural industry through public policy advocacy," said Rick Zimmerman. "It has been a very rewarding experience for me."

Since 1986, Zimmerman has been New York Farm Bureau's principal lobbyist, responsible for coordinating the organization's programs and activities designed to improve state and federal public policies. Under his guidance, New York Farm Bureau was able to achieve passage of numerous legislative proposals, including landmark legislation establishing a state income tax credit for school taxes paid by farmers. Zimmer-

man also headed New York Farm Bureau's successful efforts to reduce worker's compensation rates for farmers, as well as most recently, gaining passage of state legislation that allows dairy farmers to enter a dairy compact.

"Rick has worked tirelessly for New York Farm Bureau and its membership, and has been as integral part of the organization's overall success for many years. Although we hate to see Rick leave Farm Bureau, at least he's not leaving New York State's agricultural industry, and will continue to serve an important role on behalf of New York agriculture," said Jeffery Kirby, New York Farm Bureau administrator. "I'm sure New York Farm Bureau will continue to work closely with

him in his new role at ag and markets."

Zimmerman grew up on a 200-cow, 800-acre dairy farm near Canandaigua, N.Y., where he previously served as the principal manager of his family farm following college at Cornell University. During that time, Zimmerman was a member of the Ontario County Farm Bureau board of directors and chairman of the County Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. Zimmerman resides in Albany County with his wife, Kathleen, two sons, William and Matthew, and daughter, Kara.

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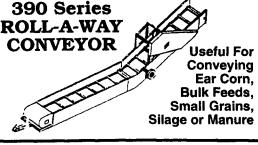


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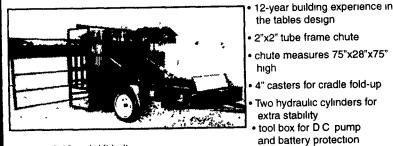






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