

## Tree Growers See New Soil Prep Methods

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the wholes to plant the seedlings, but the auger often pastes the outside of the whole so the roots grow only downward. This is especially true if the planting is done when the soil is wet."

Holly Yerger, production supervisor at Westlake outlined the farm's safety program. She said it is important to train workers, especially seasonal workers to operate equipment properly. Give operating instructions until the employees feel they know how to operate it comfortably. And only allow employees to operate the machinery they have been trained to operate. Provide all the necessary safety equipment to protect workers from noise and the rays

of the sun. Don't allow personal radios because they are a distraction and can cause hearing loss.

Dr. Larry Kuhns, Penn State horticulture department, demonstrated how to calibrate spraying equipment. The factors involved in calibration include, forward speed, pressure, nozzle size, and bandwidth.

Dr. Paul Heller, Penn State horticulture department, demonstrated insect scouting and how to identify key pests and their feeding damage.

Tim Smail, Chester County Conservation Service, discussed site selection and site modification. New county agent, Cheryl Bjornson represented the Chester County extension office.



Gary Westlake discusses how improper soil preparation can lead to trees that do not grow well and eventually die.



### From the Department of Dairy and Animal Science

This regular column from Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science features the research findings, student opportunities, and reports on other important topics generated in the Department. The back issues of the column are archived on Lancaster Farming's Internet [www.lancasterfarming.com](http://www.lancasterfarming.com) home page. Look for them.

## Happenings at the Penn State Sheep Center

Keith Bryan, Instructor

Spring has been a special time at the Penn State Sheep Center, as it probably has been for many farms across the Commonwealth. Just as our students looked forward to spring semester and spring break, our shepherd, Dick Kuzemchak eagerly anticipated lambing season as well as its conclusion. The arrival of newborn lambs confirmed the success of our mating decisions from the previous year, and provided incentive for the upcoming breeding season. The Dorset flock at Penn State continued to provide high-quality animals that were, and continue to be used in our teaching, research and extension missions. Several of our recent accomplishments, challenges and future programs are highlighted below.

### Assistant Unit Manager for the Sheep Barns

We have recently advertised for an assistant unit manager at the sheep farm. This position will

help to provide much needed assistance for Dick Kuzemchak at the farm, and will help to relieve some of the extra workload brought about by budgetary cuts and retirements that occurred during the past decade. We look forward to adding a bright, talented, highly motivated individual to our sheep farm staff to compliment the outstanding job that Dick and the undergraduate students continue to do with our Dorsets and the sheep program.

### Shows, Sales and Consignments

Our Dorsets continue to shine at national events, and the Ohio Dorset Show and Sale was no exception. Our fall ram lamb was 5th and our ewes placed quite well with the spring yearlings finishing 4th and 6th, and the fall ewe lambs placing 6th and 8th. Although we did not garner any champions, our yearling rams were first and second in their respective classes with one of them selling for \$3500.



In this picturesque tree setting, the hayride wagon takes the grower meeting participants from one farm to another.



A new "spade" type machine is used to prepare the soil in a one-pass operation for tree planting. Gary Westlake, owner, drives the tractor.

We have a group of sheep ready for the National Show and Sale in Reno, NV at the end of May, and we will continue to evaluate the potential for exhibiting a show string at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus, and the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville.

Our sheep perform well for us and for our customers, so we have consigned another strong set of rams to the PA Meat Animal Evaluation Center's Ram Performance Test. Our consignment includes four fall ram lambs and two spring ram lambs. The ram sale and sheep field day are slated for Saturday, August 5.

We are excited about our Dorsets and believe they have and will continue to contribute to the versatility of the breed in the future.

### Continental Dorset Club Conference

Faculty and staff in Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science have partnered with the Continental Dorset Club, and will be hosting the National Dorset Breed Type Conference and Symposia at Penn State on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29. The first mini-conference was held this year in conjunction with the Ohio Dorset Show and Sale in

March, and the second mini-conference will be held in conjunction with the National Dorset Show and Sale in Reno, NV, in late May.

The conference will feature noted speakers from the eastern U.S. and cover topics such as: Live evaluation of market lambs, Selling Dorset lamb meat, Selling Dorset seedstock, a tour of Penn State, Proposed Dorset breed standards with judging classes and a type discussion, Carcass evaluation, and presentations on issues, challenges and opportunities for the Continental Dorset Club in the 21st century. Although this program is geared for Dorset breeders, we encourage sheep enthusiasts to attend and participate in this novel program.

Sale - April, 2001

Plans are underway for our first Dorset production sale in spring, 2001, hopefully to be held in April at the Ag Arena. We intend to offer a livestock merchandizing course during spring semester, 2001, and to have tremendous student involvement with the planning and execution of the sale. One of our goals is to feature several lots for a variety of sheep producers and in various price ranges.

Lastly, the current road construction projects in Centre County and around Penn State have made management of the sheep flock and pastures a great challenge for Departmental personnel. Feel free to come and visit us when you can, but bear with us as we deal with the current circumstances.



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