

# Animal Power At Ag Progress Days

**ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)**  
— Six types of domesticated animals provided power for Pennsylvania agriculture and rural home chores in the days before engines and electricity. Visitors to Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 15-17, can learn about them at the Pasto Agricultural Museum.

"Dogs, sheep, goats, horses, mules, and oxen all provided power for farm and home chores," said Darwin Braund, museum curator for Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "Dogs, sheep, and goats drove wooden treadmills that operated butter churns and clothes washing machines," he said. "Threshing machines were operated by larger tread mills, powered by horses, mules or oxen."

The contributions of these animals and the machines they powered will be featured at this year's exhibit, "The Role of Animal Power in 19th and 20th Century Agriculture." A rare 1905 mule-powered stationary hay press will be demonstrated daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



Treadmills and more than 25 pieces of animal-powered field equipment will be displayed in the museum's first-ever outdoor exhibit. The display includes antique tools for haymaking, potato production, plowing, tillage, fertilization, planting, harvesting, transportation, and ice harvesting.

Transportation items include a dump cart pulled by oxen, a small wooden-wheel delivery wagon pulled by a large dog or

goat, and a horse-drawn "dog cart" that carried sporting dogs to fields for foxhunts.

New additions to the museum's collection include a 1920 manure spreader, a horse drawn potato sprayer, and a McCormick-Deering rope hay loader circa 1914-1921.

A special display inside the museum will feature a miniature scale model of a five-draft horse hitch pulling a two-bottom plow. On loan from Penn State's de-

partment of dairy and animal science, this historic exhibit describes how to hitch five horses so each is pulling an equal load. The exhibit was used to educate farmers during the days when draft horses provided the power for food and agricultural production.

Serving as a hands-on historical journey, the Pasto Museum houses more than 750 antique implements used for farming and homemaking. Visitors can tour the museum during Ag Progress Days and by appointment. Groups of 10 or more can schedule tours from April 15 through Oct. 15 by calling (814) 863-1383, e-mailing [pastoag-museum@psu.edu](mailto:pastoag-museum@psu.edu), or visiting the World Wide Web at [pasto-cas.psu.edu](http://pasto-cas.psu.edu).

Penn State's Ag Progress Days features more than 500 acres of educational and commercial exhibits, tours and machinery demonstrations. It is conducted at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Rt. 45. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday. Admission and parking are free.

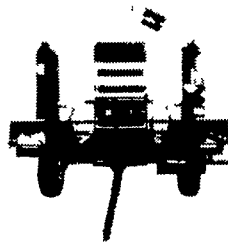
For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free from July 10 to August 17 or visit the Ag Progress Days site on the World Wide Web at <http://apd-cas.psu.edu>.

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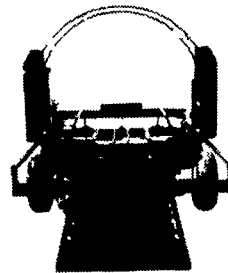
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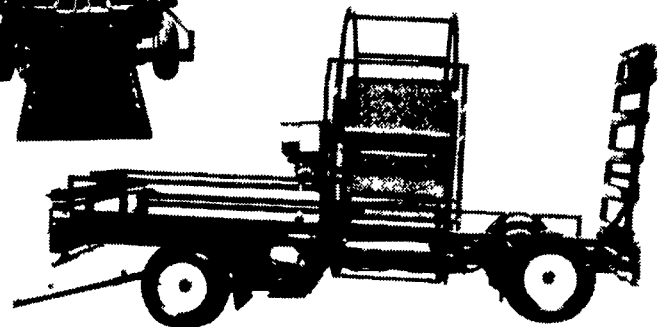


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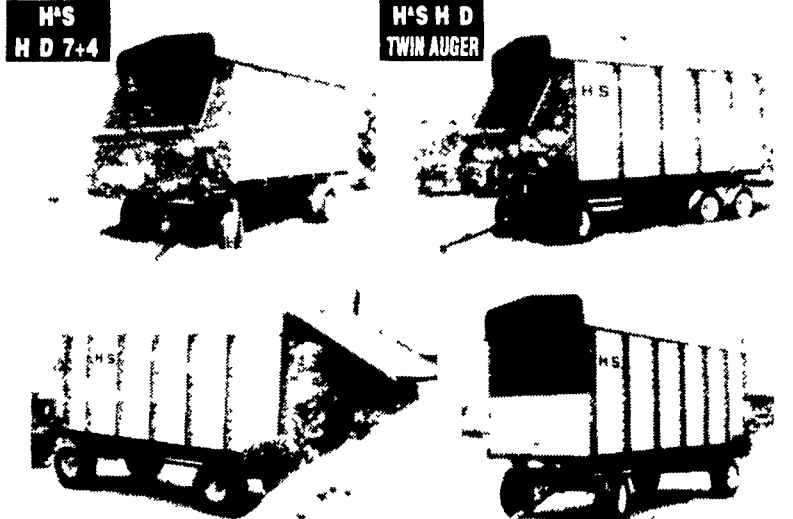
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