The **4-H Equine Skillathon** will include a written test, identification stations, showmanship contest and a conformation judging class Entry deadline August 10, 2000 Entry forms are available on the web at

PENNSTATE

College of Agricultural Sciences - Cooperative Extension

http.//www.das.psu.edu/X4-h cfm and from local Penn State Cooperative Extension offices

Activities in the Equine Exhibits Building

Ask the Expert Booth

Come and meet Penn State's new faculty member Dr. Nancy Diehl, Assistant Professor of Equine Science Dr. Diehl will be present each day from **1:00-3:30 p.m.** to answer questions related to equine health and diseases such as Equine Infectious Anemia and West Nile Virus. Other PSU faculty and staff may be present at other times. Check for updated schedules on the website and at the equine educational exhibits building

Displays and Educational Exhibits

This year's displays will feature equine diseases and Penn State's undergraduate education and extension programs. Exhibits will also include breed and youth organizations, therapeutic riding, horseshoeing, equine fencing and other aspects of the commercial horse industry.

Other Related Activities at Ag Progress Days

1905 Stationary Horse Powered Hay Press

At 10·00 a.m. and 2·00 p m. each day there will be a demonstration of a 1905 stationary horse powered hay press located next to the Pasto museum below the special exhibits building.

Insect Borne Diseases Workshop

At noon and 3 00 p m each day there will be a talk on insect borne diseases in the theatre area of the college theme building Each 1 hour session will discuss West Nile Encephalitis, Lyme Disease, and Equine Infectious Anemia

Parking and admission are free.

For more information:
Call Brian Egan at (814) 863-3957 or Pat Comerford at (814) 863-3657 for information about the equine educational program Check out the website at http://apd.cas psu edu/ for more information about Ag Progress Days activities

It's All About Horses

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Whether serving as a source of industrial power, a means of transportation or domestic pets, horses have a central position in Pennsylvania culture and lore. These powerful and graceful animals also occupy a prominent role at Penn State's Ag Progress Days.

"We're trying to inform the public of new information in the equine industry and highlight Penn State's teaching and extension programs," says Pat Comerford, extension horse program coordinator and organizer of Ag Progress Days' Equine Educational Program. "Because horses are involved in so many varied functions of our society, visitors will be treated to a potpourri of activities. There's something here for everyone, from the most casual passerby to the professional equestrian."

This year's program features the return of a popular activity from past events. Experienced horse handlers Brian Egan, horse program assistant for Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Ward Studebaker, manager of the university's horse herd, will conduct horse-handling demonstrations with Penn State horses at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 15 and at 1:10 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

"We're reinstating these clinics after several years, because they were so informative," Comerford says. "Our experts demonstrate basic horse handling techniques and skills, and explain how and why these skills are used."

The intricate riding techniques of dressage will be presented at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 15. "These are very high-level maneuvers that require great coordination and training of horse and rider — almost like gymnastics on horseback," Comerford says. "They're very intricate and subtle, and it takes a highly trained horse to do dressage correctly."

A highlight of Wednesday's events will be high-speed performances of barrel racing and pole-bending, beginning at 6 p.m. Instructors will explain how horses are trained for the high-speed racing events, then offer a demonstration. Earlier in the day, a trainer will demonstrate sheep dog herding techniques.

On Thursday, Aug. 17, the Ag Progress Days/Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association Youth Equine Skillathon will start at 11 a.m. The skillathon is a multi-phase competition that allows young equestrians to demonstrate their skills with a horsemanship competition, a written test and a series of identification stations.

"This year, we've added a division for 4-H members without horses to compete, so they'll show their overall knowledge instead of showing an individual horse," Comerford says. "We're also having a clinic on 'Preparing the Showmanship Horse,' which explains how you can train a horse to do showmanship maneuvers."

Penn State veterinarian Nancy Diehl will answer horse care and health questions at the "Ask the Expert" booth each day from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Equine Exhibits Building. She also will take part in "Insect-Borne Diseases" workshops at noon and 3 p.m. each day in the College of Agricultural Sciences Exhibits Building Theatre on Main Street.

Breed clinics throughout the event will present the history, uses and unique aspects of quarter horses, Freisians, Haflingers, Paso Finos, Hanoverians and trottingbreds.

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