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# Lancaster Farming

Vol. 45 No. 42

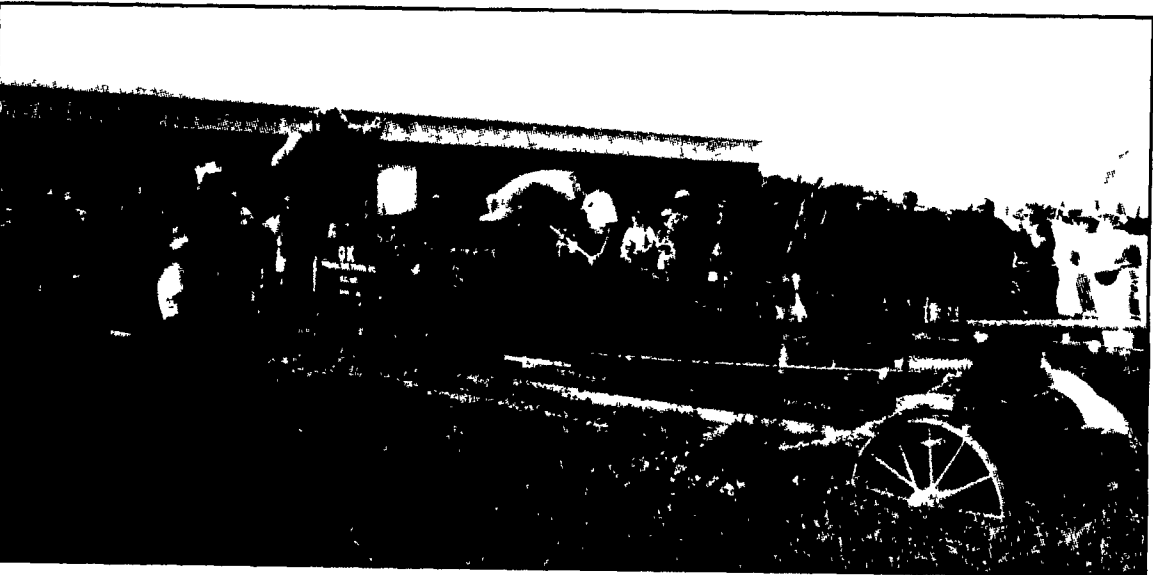
Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 19, 2000

\$32.00 Per Year

60¢ Per Copy

## Good Weather, Crops Give Optimism To Ag Progress Days



From the most modern to the uniquely antiquated, farm machinery worked in a showcase setting at Ag Progress Days this week. Sponsored by Penn State University's College of Agricultural Sciences, the educational and research aspects of the event were obvious. In the upper photo nine different makes and models of mowing equipment were demonstrated in the fields with opportunity to compare their work. This is one of the most attractive reasons farmers give for attending. But nostalgia was also allowed to have its demonstration. In the lower photo, the Dr. Robert Cowan family demonstrates the O.K. Panama Hay Press that was manufactured in 1905 to 1906. Dr. Cowan donated the machine to the Pasto Agricultural Museum where it was completely restored. This is the only known machine of its kind that is not missing any parts. A fun time was had by both operators and spectators. *Photos by Everett Newswanger, editor*

## Ag Progress: Learn, Discover, Explore

**MICHELLE RANCK**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*

**ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)**  
— Since 1850, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences has utilized an array of field days to educate producers about latest practices and research results.

Ag Progress Days has grown from the original "Grassland Field Days" to feature a broad scope of events and exhibits.

From horse breed clinics to farm equipment on the highway seminars to stream corridor or water quality tours to field machinery demos to insect-borne diseases workshops, the three-day event has become a valuable educational and informational forum for the agriculture industry.

### Community Impact

In the College of Ag Sciences building, the theme "Inventions and Innovations" continued the tradition of disseminating information to the public from the university. Martin Shields, co-

designer of the model and assistant professor of agriculture economics, along with community and economic development extension agent Winifred McGee introduced the "CIM PSU" program featured at one of the booths.

According to program information, business changes affect other businesses, tax collection, public services and school districts. Consequently, because of the importance of economic changes to a community, Penn State developed an economic model to help answer the "what if" questions of economic changes.

The model analyzes economic factors in a community and plugs in data to help decision makers plan land uses, focus business retention and recruitment efforts, avoid mistakes in crisis situations, and project the results of changes to a county.

The model has been used for ten simulations in several Pennsylvania counties. In Adams

county, the model predicted the economic impact of losing fruit trees to the plum pox virus. In Indiana County, the model projected the impact of closing the coal mines; in Oil City, the model analyzed the impact of closing the oil refinery; in Susquehanna County, the model helped to determine how a proposed community rail service would affect community growth.

### The Golden Egg

The program with the theme, "In An Eggshell: Spinning Garbage Into Gold" addressed how to safely dispose of 300,000 tons of eggshells per year. Eggshells, unfortunately, have an odor, are not quickly biodegradable, are not accepted by many landfills . . . and are being produced in immense quantities every day.

According to program information, to separate the membrane and shell, the shells are run through a meat processing

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**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
*Editor*

**ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)**  
— What a difference a year makes. Last year at Ag Progress Days, agriculture faced the effects of drought and the end of the 20th Century. This year adequate rainfall has graced the growing season. In addition, the feared Y2K bugs never appeared and clear, bright weather last week for the show gave farmers and agribusiness representatives an optimistic outlook. This optimism was clearly expressed in both the Penn State Alumni luncheon on Tuesday and in government day activities on Wednesday.

In his state of the college address, Dean Robert Steele said with the dawn of the new millennium, the key words are innovation and invention.

"The state of Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences has never been better," Steele said. "Alumni from all periods of the last Century have brought us to the present. Now the brightest and best students are coming into the college. The

next generation will take us into the future.

"Every student who graduated last year could have a job if he or she wanted it," Steele said. "The problem was not getting a job. The problem was choosing which job they wanted to take."

Steele also complimented the faculty and staff for their continuing commitment to the students. New members of the faculty are bringing additions to the program.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Dairy of Distinction Program held a recognition ceremony and announced the new class of 2000. Alan Bair, director of the Penn State Dairy Stakeholders was the guest speaker. He said the winners in their farm beautification program were a good reflection on the whole dairy industry. Image is very important when dealing with consumers. He credited dairy farmers with not only good looking farms but also with personal integrity that adds to the total image of dairy farming in Pennsylvania.

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## Entries Down, Quality Up At Pa. Hay Show

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*  
**ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)**  
— Though entries are down from 130 or so last year to about 83 this year, the 2000 Pennsylvania Hay Show at Ag Progress Days provided a look at some quality hay.

Despite a wet year that could cause some damaged hay, "there is some hay here that is real good," said show judge Lester R. Vough, forage crops specialist with the Natural Resource Science Department at the University of Maryland.

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The Lehigh County 4-H Roundup moves from its previous location at the Schnecksville Fairgrounds to the Allentown Fair. Sale date is Sept. 2 at 3 p.m. under the Livestock Tent at the Allentown Fair. Lehigh County 4-H livestock club members and leaders attended this year's Schnecksville Fair in June at the 4-H petting zoo. Front from left, Donna Rabenold, Todd Bennecoff Jr., Timmy Billig, John Strawbridge, Adam Rabenold, and Cheryl Bennecoff. Back from left, Tom Rabenold, Dennis Haas, Teresa Billig, Todd Bennecoff Sr., and Steven Bruch. See story page A22. *Photo by Andy Andrews*