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Lancaster Farming

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New Family Events At This Year's Ag Progress



At top, Tanya, far left, and Casie Kocher, Pennsylvania Furnace, look over a seed drill at last year's Ag Progress Days with cousin Justin. Tanya and Casie are twin daughters of Gary and Chrissy Kocher. Justin is the son of Rob and June Kocher. Read more about what new family events are planned in this issue devoted to Ag Progress Days. At bottom photo, visitors numbered in the many thousands at last year's Ag Progress Days. This is Main Street looking toward Rt. 45. Photos by Andy Andrews, editor

'Kid's Climb,' Children's Tales, Corn Maze Await

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — More so than in the past, Penn State is gearing its annual showcase of agriculture to everyone in the family. "From the Ground Up: Building a Better Environment" is the theme for this year's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 14-16, with plenty of family events. Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the event is conducted at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Rt. 45.

"Some of our most popular features are back for your enjoyment. The corn maze and largest weed contest await you, as do the lovely flower gardens. The Family Learning Hub, ImAGination Station, Shavers Creek and the Farm Animal Learning Center continue to offer great fun, great information, and a place to relax with your family.

In his welcoming address, Robert D. Steele, Dean, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, wrote that he is "very excited to welcome you to Ag Progress Days 2001." In the letter, Steele noted, "New this year is the 'Kid's Climb,' where the daring can ascend to the treetops and discover what it's like to be an arborist.

"Our storyteller will weave magic tales, and the horse exhibitions promise to be as exciting as ever. Don't forget to visit to the Pasto Agricultural Museum to see their special exhibit and take part in the second annual silent auction. And throughout the show, you'll find food booths offering wonderful treats from ice cream to steak sandwiches." Today, according to the college dean, "wrestling with complex issues is the name of the game for all of us. Profitability, environmental protection, biotechnology, globalization,

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Penn State Ag Progress Days 2001



Heat And Drought Stresses Crops And Livestock

Noninsurable Crop Loss Assistance Announced
DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A drought watch issued this Wednesday for 23 central Pennsylvania counties came as no surprise to many farmers.

Crops throughout the region have been suffering from a water shortage for weeks. The recent heat wave has caused additional stress to crops, livestock, and poultry.

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Ag Secretaries Endorse Expo

DEANNA CUNFER
Carbon Co. Correspondent
SAYLORSBURG (Monroe Co.) — For those interested in viewing the new equipment available to the agricultural industry, Ag Progress Days and the dealer display at county fairs are a priority stop on their summer schedule. Most often the crowds are gathered around the largest pieces of equipment. Now there is an event that is

geared toward the small farm owner and individuals interested in living in the country. At a joint press conference Tuesday, Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. and New Jersey Agriculture Secretary Arthur R. Brown Jr. endorsed the first-ever Northeast Small Farm and Rural Living Expo scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 22 and Sunday, Sept. 23.

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At this week's Reading Fair, Helen Readinger, Fleetwood; Linda Ernst, Reading; and June Schuler, Fleetwood, co-chaired Monday's chocolate cake and apple pie contests. Turn to page B16 to read about the contest. Find coverage of the fair's sheep show on page B18 (results on A29), swine show on page A30, and dairy show on page A46. Next week watch for beef show coverage. Photo by Michelle Ranck-Kunjappu