

# Lamb Skillathon Selects Champions At Ag Progress

ANDY ANDREWS  
Editor

at Ag Progress were announced late Wednesday afternoon.

Supreme champions of the combined events included Kim Langhans, Denise Hardisky,

David Neagley, and Molly Enos. Reserve overall champions were Dana Hardisky, Deidra Smith, and George Peters.

Showmanship judge was Keith Bryan, Penn State instructor. Steve Taylor, farm manager of Lyn-Lee Farm in State College, was type judge. Fred Rudy, Charles Itle, and several Penn State specialists helped coordinate the show.

Handing out ribbons was Deidra Smith, Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen.

Forty-six youth participated in the skillathon. The purpose is to promote the educational aspects of livestock production, which is measured by tests in identifying equipment, identifying feedstuffs, identifying meat cuts, and a knowledge quiz on quality assurance and one on general management.

The event is sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Ag Progress Days. It is conducted by faculty and staff from the Department of Dairy and Animal Science and members of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation. Proceeds from the entry fees go to the scholarship foundation, which this year was \$400.

Winners in each age group will receive a saving bond for \$200 and the runner-up receives a \$100 bond.

## No-Till Vegetable Transplanter To Be Demonstrated In Chester County

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — Thanks to a new piece of equipment, farmers in Southeastern Pennsylvania can transplant vegetable plants with minimal disturbance of the ground.

Traditionally, vegetable farmers have been limited to plowing, leveling fields and then finally planting the vegetable plants. With this new equipment, no-till vegetable transplanter, farmers can make a slice in the soil and place the vegetable plants in the ground all in one pass while leaving the ground cover relatively undisturbed.

On Thursday, Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Peter Flynn Farm in Westtown Township, Chester County, the new style of vegetable planter will be demonstrated to local farmers and other interested individuals.

Farmers will have the opportunity to test the new equipment and make arrangements to use it on their own vegetable farms.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development (SEPA RC&D) Council purchased the no-till vegetable transplanter and is making it available to farmers for free.

According to Arthur B. Holland, chairman of the SEPA RC&D, "We wanted to give

farmers the opportunity to try this new equipment and see how beneficial it can be."

SEPA RC&D was able to purchase the no-till vegetable transplanter thanks to grants from the PA DEP Growing Greener Grant Center and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The transplanter was specially made and one of three in the Eastern United States. It is patterned after Steve Groff's of Cedar Meadow Farm, Lancaster County.

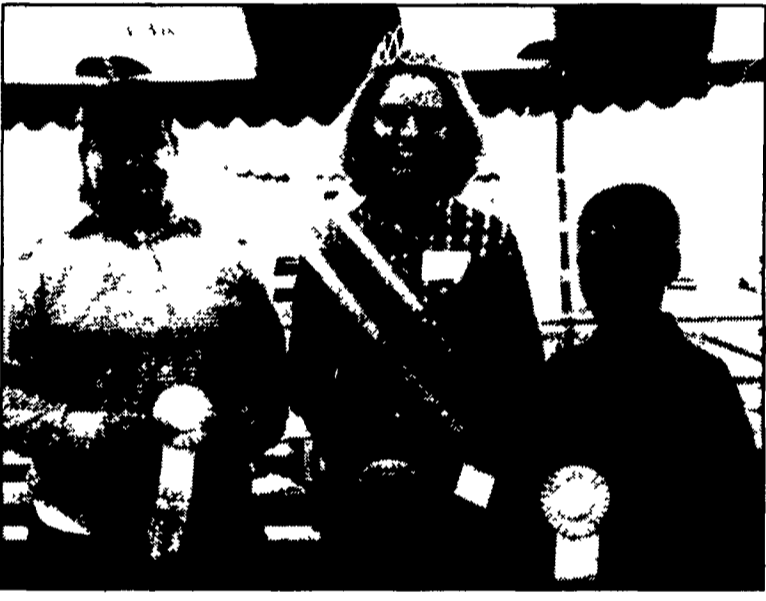
"Using no-till," said Holland, "to transplant late season vegetables is one best ways to protect the fields from those summer cloud bursts and also retain moisture because of the protective mulch left on the surface of the field."

The Peter Flynn Farm is located at near the intersection of Westtown Road and Route 926 in Westtown Township, Chester County. Signs will be posted along the roads directing people to the demonstration.

For more information about the demonstration or SEPA RC&D, please contact their office at 824 Main Street, Pennsburg, PA or by calling (215) 541-7930.



Grand champion at the Lamb Skillathon at Ag Progress. Front, Kimberly Langhans. In center, back, is Deidra Smith, Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen. From left, Denise Hardisky, Smith, David Neagley, and Molly Enos.



Reserve champions at the Ag Progress Lamb Skillathon event. From left, Dana Hardisky, Deidra Smith, and George Peters.

## Rodale Schedules Field Day

KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — A Rodale Institute Field Day and Workshop is scheduled Thursday, Aug. 23, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. here at The Rodale Institute.

The event will be conducted at The Rodale Institute Experimental Farm, 611 Siegfriedale Road, Kutztown.

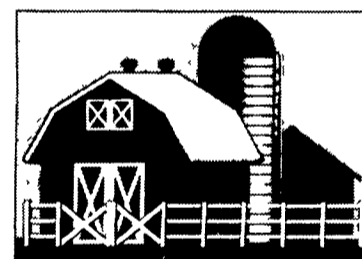
It is co-sponsored by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and USDA Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems.

Free admission, mileage reimbursement, and lunch to the first 100 registered participants. Pre-registration is required. Walk-ins must register upon arrival.

Highlights include soil management for improved water quality, livestock/nutrient management for improved water quality, cover crops and rotations, transition to organic, marketing techniques, and farm equipment tour.

For more information, call

(610) 683-1432, fax: (610) 683-8548, or e-mail: info@rodaleinst.org. Website is www.rodaleinstitute.org.



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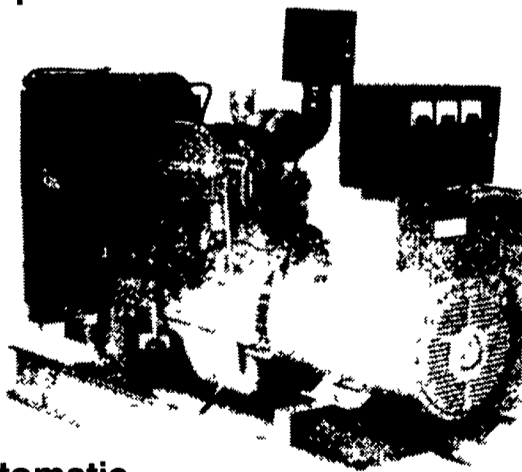
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