

Penn State Cooperative Extension To Offer E-Business Course

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Penn State Cooperative Extension soon will offer a course to teach small business owners and operators how to use the Internet.

The Access Pennsylvania Main Street program connects small- to medium-sized businesses to the Internet, electronic commerce, and global trade. The program teaches Pennsylvania business people about the potential to dramatically increase access to resources and to expand their available markets.

"This program will provide

small business owners the information they need to make good decisions about using the Internet in a way that will improve their bottom line," said Bill Shuffstall, Clearfield County extension agent and coordinator of the program. "And that is not always e-commerce, or selling things. We will show them how to get information they need to be effective."

Shuffstall is quick to point out that the Access Pennsylvania program does not try to sell Web page-building services. "However, we can advise small busi-

ness people who have or want Web pages what they need to do to make them better," he said.

The Internet holds a wealth of information small business people need, according to Shuffstall, such as potential new suppliers, explanations of government regulations, the low-down on competitors and services of trade groups, just to name a few.

The 12-hour e-business course is taught in an easy-to-understand format in an informal classroom setting. A substantial portion of the course consists of hands-on exploration of the Internet.

"We will teach small business people how to use e-mail to quickly send and receive information needed in their operations," he said.

The program is new to Pennsylvania, but proven elsewhere.

"We have worked with the University of Minnesota to adopt and modify their program and make it a Penn State program," Shuffstall explained. "It was used in that state and others in the Midwest for more than four years. It is very popular there with small business people because it offers them so much practical help."

Penn State extension agents were trained last summer to offer the Access Pennsylvania Main Street Program and have been forging partnerships with community organizations to offer the program across the state. The course first will be offered in a number of counties in late fall and early winter, running more or less continuously after that.

For more information on the program or to see when and where the course will be offered, visit the Web at <http://www.ebusiness.extension.psu.edu>.

Penn State, Game Commission Study Hunter Movements

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Hunters will be able to operate this fall in a joint Penn State-Pennsylvania Game Commission study of hunter movement, success, and attitudes in Sproul State Forest in northcentral Pennsylvania.

During the Friday-through-Sunday period (Nov. 23-25) prior to opening day of the regular rifle deer-hunting season, university personnel, game commission staff, and state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry workers were scheduled to contact a sample of hunting camp resi-

dents.

Then, beginning opening day, Monday morning, Nov. 26, through Wednesday, Nov. 28, and the following two Saturdays, a series of check stations along Rt. 144 will be staffed so that hunters traveling to Sproul State Forest can be asked to participate in this study as well.

"This is one of several research projects at Penn State related to deer management," said Dr. Gary Alt, deer management section leader with the Game Commission. "As we move forward with changes in deer management, we need to know more

about when, where, and how hunters hunt.

"This study," he said, "will provide information to help us improve deer management on state forestlands. I hope hunters using Sproul State Forest will cooperate with us on this project."

To participate, some hunters will be asked to trace their day's hunt on a topographic map. A small group of hunters from camps and some hunters who drive into Sproul State Forest will be asked to carry a pocket-sized global positioning unit during their hunt.

These units automatically will

record hunter movement. The study team will retrieve the unit, either as the hunter leaves the forest or from the hunter at camp, and download the satellite information into computers for later analysis.

In addition to these efforts to contact hunters both at camp and when they drive into the area, an attempt will be made to determine hunter distribution in the forest using aerial photography taken by the Bureau of Forestry during the study period.

"This cooperative research is using cutting-edge technology to study hunter movements, but still

depends on the cooperation of deer hunters in Sproul State Forest," said Dr. Jim Finley, an associate professor of forest resources in Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Contact Finley at (814) 863-0401 if you have questions about the study.

Penn State and the Game Commission plan to repeat this study during the fall 2002 hunting season. As an incentive, all hunters helping with this study will have their name entered in a drawing for a Garmin GPS unit.

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Penn State Clarifies Soy-Diesel Confusion

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Some people, depending on their definitions of the term "soy-diesel," may have misinterpreted recent warnings from an expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences on the dangers of burning soy-diesel blended with diesel fuel in engines.

According to Dennis Buffington, professor of agricultural and biological engineering, the term "bio-diesel" is the modern term for transesterified oil (whether its origin is vegetable, animal or spent cooking oil).

"Bio-diesel meets ASTM Fuel Grade Standards PS-121 and it is perfectly safe and advisable to burn bio-diesel straight or blended with conventional diesel fuel in diesel engines," Buffington said.

"In some regions of the country, the term 'soy-

diesel' is still being used to refer to bio-diesel that is derived from soybean oil."

In these regions, explains Buffington, the use of soy-diesel, either straight or blended with diesel fuel, is likewise perfectly safe and advisable since this fuel also meets the ASTM standards as well as pertinent government regulations.

However, in some parts of the country, the term "soy-diesel" currently is being used to refer to raw soybean oil that is blended with diesel fuel along with an additive.

"Although engines will run short term on this mixture, the mixture does not meet ASTM standards," said Buffington. "It does not meet government regulations, and users risk damaging their engines."

The bottom line, Buffington warns, is "buyer beware" of what he or she is purchasing to use as a fuel in an engine.

LanChester Pork Council Production Forum & Annual Meeting

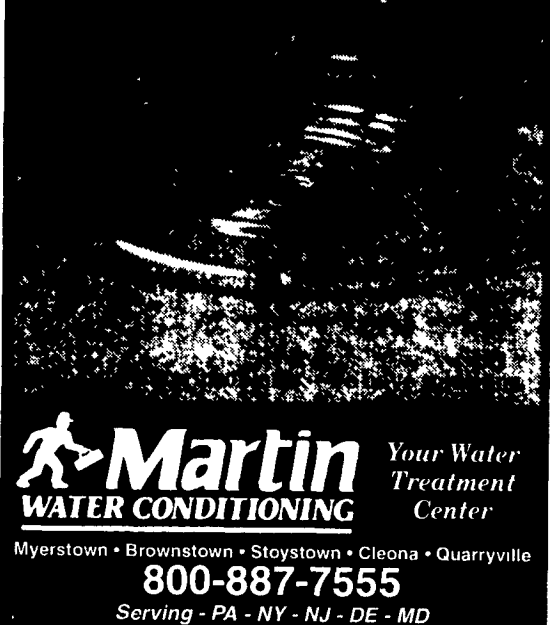
Dec. 11th 9 am - 2 pm

Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, PA

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| 9:00 am - 9:30 am | Registration |
| 9:30 am - 11:30 am | Dr. Roy Kirkwood, Michigan State Univ.
* Reproductive Management of Sows
* Reproductive Management of Gilts |
| 11:30 am - 12 pm | Intervet USA, Dr. Charles Francisco
* Technical Services & Product Lines |
| 12 - 1 pm | Lunch and Annual Meeting |
| 1 pm - 2 pm | PQA Level III Recertification: PSU Extension |

**RSVP to Kurt Good at
717-445-5776 by Dec. 5th**

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