

PENN STATE



College of Agricultural Sciences

From the Department of Dairy and Animal Science

This regular column from Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science features the research findings, student opportunities, and reports on other important topics generated in the Department. The back issues of the column are archived on *Lancaster Farming's* Internet www.lancasterfarming.com home page. Look for them.

PENN STATE EQUINE PROGRAM TAKES ON A NEW FACE

Ann M. Swinker and Pat Comerford
Penn State Extension Horse Specialists
Department of Dairy and Animal Science

Penn State's equine program is evolving! We are excited about current projects and the future plans for the university's equine program.

Penn State has a long history of involvement with the equine, beginning with horses and mules used for construction of early university facilities, and continuing in today's programs in undergraduate education, extension, and research. The Department of Dairy and Animal Science is developing the equine program to address the needs of Pennsylvania's growing horse industry.

The department has a new equine faculty member, Dr. Ann Swinker. She began her cooperative extension/teaching appointment in July 2001. Swinker will implement and manage adult extension educational programs in equine science, teach and advise students, and assist with the new equine minor.

Swinker received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Penn State and her doctorate at West Virginia University. Swinker began her career in extension in 1975 as an agricultural county agent in Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, and worked there until 1990. From 1990 to 2001, Swinker held the position of extension

horse specialist at Colorado State University.

Swinker's research activities have addressed management and environmental issues related to the horse industry, such as stable air quality, small acreage management, manure management, water quality, economic impact studies, in addition to behavior and reproductive issues. Ann's undergraduate teaching responsibilities in Colorado and Pennsylvania have included Equine Careers Identification and Preparation Course, livestock and equine events coordination, equine nutrition, and extension-related courses.

Penn State's undergraduate courses include introductory horse production and management, advanced horse production and management, horse handling and training, equine facilitated therapy, applied equine behavior, advanced judging, independent study, and special topics in equine science. Students are actively involved in production, management, and equine industry activities through foaling, breeding, and farm management projects, judging teams, internships, independent study, and other educational programs.

Extracurricular activities include Block and Bridle Club and Intercollegiate Horse Show Equestrian Team. Internships are available with horse breeding and training farms, feed and pharmaceutical companies, equine publications, racetracks, and other equine industry enterprises.

Penn State has been a leader in the breeding of registered Quarter Horses and maintains a herd of approximately 35-45 horses. These horses are used for teaching, research, and extension programs. The 2-year-olds are sold each spring after completion of the handling and training course. Two stallions, The Clue Express and Lucky Zip, are standing to Penn State mares and have produced successful show and pleasure horses. A primary goal of the breeding program is to produce quality horses for Penn State programs and sale to the public.

The department's extension programs include a strong youth equine program.

Approximately 7,500 youth, thousands of volunteer leaders, and families are involved in 4-H horse programs throughout Pennsylvania. These programs are designed to develop life skills in youth and knowledge of horse production, use, and management. Activities such as clinics, camps, horse shows, and other 4-H events and competitions promote development of riding and horsemanship skills, while encouraging responsibility, self-confidence, sportsmanship, teamwork, and responsible care of project animals. Several new 4-H horse programs and resources are under development including additional references and resources for leaders and 4-H members, a horsemanship skills advancement program, a comprehensive safety education program, 4-H horse judges training, and additional hands-on clinics.

In addition, Dr. Ed Jedrzejewski, DVM, became the assistant horse farm manager in July 2001 and Dr. Nancy Diehl, VMD, joined the faculty in August 2000 as assistant professor of equine science. Jedrzejewski assists with daily management of the horse farm, including management and care of horses, supervision of students, and assistance with classes. Diehl coordinates the undergraduate equine teaching

program, advises students, conducts research focused primarily on equine behavior, and is the faculty coordinator for the farm unit.

These new members join Brian Egan, equine extension assistant and Pat Comerford, extension horse specialist, all of which have worked with the Penn State horse program for many years.

We have a search ongoing to hire a new horse farm manager. Egan coordinates, conducts, and assists with youth and adult extension activities, teaches the horse-handling course, and coaches the horse judging teams. Comerford provides leadership

for the Pennsylvania 4-H horse program, develops educational resources, coordinates youth activities, assists with classes, and advises students.

Penn State's Equine Team will provide strength to the university's horse educational extension, teaching, and research programs. We look forward to providing additional opportunities for students, assessing equine industry needs, and strengthening Penn State's ties with the equine industry.

For more information about the Penn State equine program, visit the horse program Website at <http://www.das.psu.edu/> and click on "horses."

Get Up To Speed At The New York Farm Show

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — If you feel like the pace of change in agriculture is leaving you in the technology superhighway ditch, the New York Farm Show will put you in the fast lane.

A premiere Northeast indoor farm show, conducted Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21-23, at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, reveals all you need to know about current and future technology to move your farm into the 21st century.

Here's just a sampling of the exciting developments in ag technology that you'll discover at New York Farm Show.

- Bt corn hybrids performance.
- Cow monitoring systems and other dairy technology.
- Computerized harvesting and other dairy technology.
- The brains behind new tractors.
- Advanced record keeping systems.

All this and much more awaits you at the New York Farm Show where more than 400 agribusinesses, in five buildings, demonstrate the latest in services, equipment, and inputs.

"Progress is the focus of New York Farm Show," said Scott Grigor, New York Farm Show manager. "The show provides farmers with a way to keep on top of all the changes that are

taking place. It will keep them in touch with the future."

"Farmers who want to keep up on the latest piece of equipment, tillage management, or whatever their farm operation needs can find it at New York Farm Show," said Grigor.

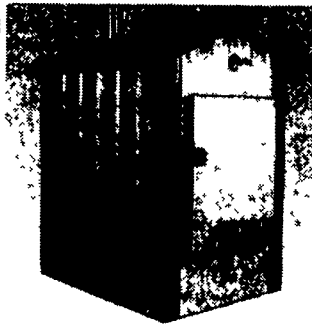
The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health is offering health screenings Feb. 22-23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a Farm Youth Safety Workshop on Feb. 21, starting at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Preregistration is requested by Feb. 6. Contact Barb Kersman at (800) 343-7527.

Farm toys, antique tractors, and vintage milk bottles displays make New York Farm Show the best buy for the whole family.

New York Farm Show sponsors its annual Toy Show Auction, Friday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m. in the Empire Room of the Arts and Homes Building. More than 250 pieces will be on the auction block, with proceeds going to benefit New York FFA.

New York Farm Show is sponsored by the Northeast Equipment Dealers Association and American Agriculturist Magazine. Tickets are available free from Northeast Equipment Dealers by writing New York Farm Show, P.O. Box 3470, Syracuse, NY 13220. Include a self-addressed, stamped legal envelope with your request.

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