

# Penn State Extension Conducting Survey To Address Community Needs

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — A statewide online survey now being conducted by Penn State Cooperative Extension offers taxpayers around the commonwealth input into decisions on future extension programs in their counties.

The survey is a new wrinkle added to extension's ongoing, long-range planning efforts, says Ted Alter, associate vice president of outreach and director of cooperative extension.

"As part of our program planning process, we do a statewide

plan of work every five years to determine how we should spend our taxpayers' dollars," Alter says.

"This time, we decided to do an online needs assessment where users and nonusers of cooperative extension can visit a site and pro-

vide us with information and their thoughts. The survey asks about programming in six different areas: youth, family, and community; nutrition and health; plant production; animal production; food processing; and forestry and wildlife.

In addition to the survey, extension staff will be conducting focus groups around the state to gather information from stakeholders. The five-minute survey can be taken online until May 31 at [www.extension.psu.edu/survey](http://www.extension.psu.edu/survey).

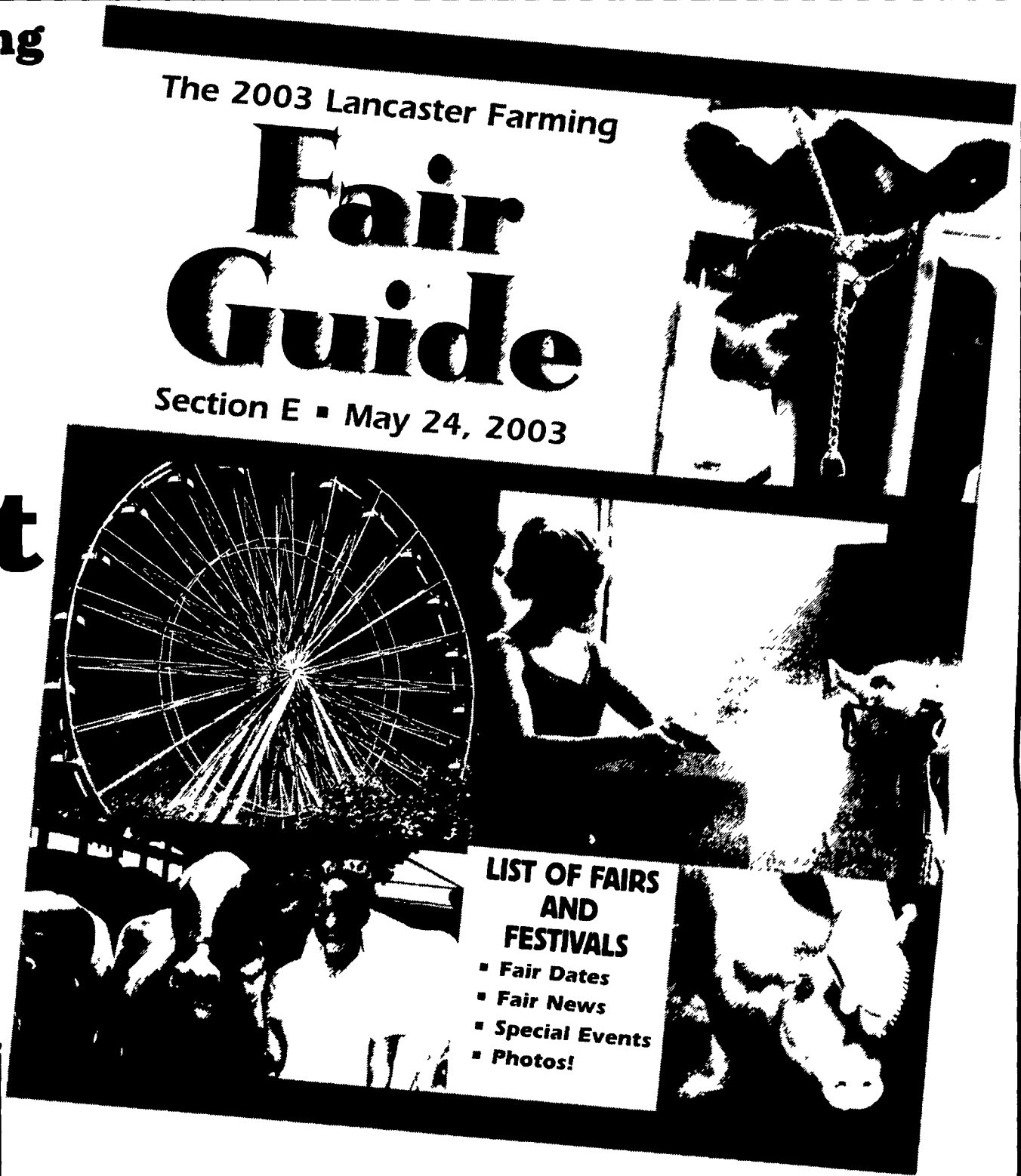
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