

## Sec. Wolff Kicks Off Rabies Vaccine Project

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Dennis C. Wolff Monday kicked off the oral rabies baiting project in western Pennsylvania that will run through Sept. 12.

"I am pleased that the department is participating in the oral rabies vaccination project again this year," Secretary Wolff said. "The rabies baiting project has been enormously successful in Pennsylvania. In the area cov-

ered by last year's baiting program, we have seen a 50 percent decline in raccoons testing positive for the rabies virus."

Seven agencies (United States Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Allegheny County Department of Health, Erie County Department of Health, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Communicable Disease Center and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture)

are participating in the USDA Wildlife Services' attempt to establish a barrier stretching from the eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania Lake Erie shoreline southward through West Virginia, Virginia, and into Northern Tennessee to reduce the risk of raccoon rabies spreading westward into the middle and upper central states. The baited zone will extend approximately 60 miles into Pennsylvania.

## Melvin To Speak At Ag Republican Event

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Judge Joan Orié Melvin, candidate for Pennsylvania Supreme Court, will speak at the annual Pennsylvania Ag Republican chicken barbecue, Wednesday, Aug. 20.

The barbecue will begin with a 5:30 p.m. iced tea social hour with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW picnic grounds on Rt. 45, Pine Grove Mills.

The fundraising event traditionally coincides with Ag Progress Days, which attracts thousands of farmers and agribusiness people.

Melvin comes from the Pittsburgh area and is serving her sixth year on the Pennsylvania Superior Court. As a mother and as a judge, she has had the needs of children and families foremost in her mind when making decisions for the people.

Also invited to the event are the three Republican candidates for judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court: Grainger Bowman, Cumberland County; Judge Palmer Dolbin, Schuylkill County; and Susan Gantman, Montgomery County.

Reservations are \$25 each and can be made by contacting Pennsylvania Ag Republicans, Mike Firestone, Chairman, 4438 Conrad Weiser Parkway, Womelsdorf, PA 19567, (717) 274-6906.

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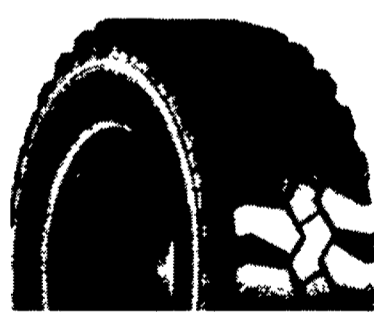
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## Ag Progress Days Provide Variety

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — From hay baling and manure handling demonstrations to safety workshops and a skid steer rodeo, Penn State's 2003 Ag Progress Days will showcase a diversity of agricultural equipment and technology. The event takes place Aug. 19-21 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring.

"Each year we try to have something for everyone. Our exhibitor base is more diverse as the industry changes throughout the state," said Bob Oberheim, Ag Progress Days manager. "In all four corners of the show, our programs have changed and improved to stay current with topics of interest for the audience and the industry."

Oberheim expects more than 350 commercial exhibitors, 30-35 being new to the show. Visitors can examine the latest technology, goods and services, and speak with company representatives. "One company will have its own area where potential buyers can operate a self-propelled forage harvester," he said.

This year's event will feature many field demonstrations, with an emphasis on hay. "One unique thing about our outdoor show is that commercial companies can take their equipment to the field and demonstrate it," Oberheim said. "The audience can see a wide range of mowers, balers, and new for this year, different types of wrappers."

Other field demonstrations will include a horse-drawn power baler, tillage tools for conservation of surface residue and manure application to reduce odor and preserve residue cover. A skid steer rodeo on Wednesday will give contestants a chance to win prizes on a timed track.

A grain entrapment safety demonstration will highlight farm safety programs at the event. The York County Police Department also will hold a workshop on farm equipment highway safety.

Workshops, tours, and exhibits will focus on such topics as grazing and forage management, beef production, stream corridor management and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Visitors will be able to ask Penn State experts about anything from dairy, livestock and equine production to soils, crops and integrated pest management.