

Forest Products, Potentials Highlighted At 2003 Ag Progress Days

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tours, the intent is to address contemporary issues in the efficient production of food and fiber while answering questions related to modern family living and healthy lifestyles, according to event manager Bob Oberheim.

"We try to combine new, themed exhibits with many of the traditional activities that typify the diversity of the college's programs," he said. "Just about anyone can find something of interest at Ag Progress Days."

Exhibits, workshops and guided tours will present current research initiatives on such important issues as food safety, environmental protection and more efficient agricultural production. Faculty and extension staff will be available to answer questions and provide information on crops and soils; dairy, livestock, and equine production; conservation practices; and farm safety.

Home and family living issues such as gardening tips, lawn care, healthy food preparation and flower arranging will also be featured. Special exhibits will highlight the educational and career opportunities available to students in the agricultural sciences. A workshop also will review the impact of the U.S. Farm Bill on Pennsylvania agriculture and citizens.

Other planned activities include a skid steer rodeo and several new tours, including a tour of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's new Animal Evaluation Laboratory, which recently was completed near the Ag Progress Days site.

Other highlights of the event include:

- "Seeing the Forest for the Trees": Building on the exposition theme, faculty and staff will present activities and interactive displays focusing on research and

educational programs to benefit the future of Pennsylvania's forests.

- Equine Experience: Visitors to the Experience can take the AQHA 4aHorse Test Ride — to ride an American quarter horse and receive free instruction from professional equestrians at this expanded educational effort of Penn State, the Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse Association. Clinics in the Experience include mounted drill teams, a working sheep dog demonstration and the Preifert Texas Thunder Six Horse Hitch, which features the world's largest horse.

- Conservation Partnership Area: More than 15 federal, state, and local aged private entities will present more than five acres of demonstrations, tours, and exhibits at the exposition site.

- Animal Sciences Exhibit Area: This area will feature

workshops and demonstrations of the latest in animal science technologies and practical techniques for improving management and performance.

- Horticulture, Lawn, and Garden Tents: Faculty and extension agents will be on hand to discuss plant, insect, mite and disease problems, and displays of "green roof" technology and other innovations will be presented.

- Pasto Agricultural Museum: The museum celebrates its 25th anniversary with a special exhibit that explores the growth of the museum's collection to more than 900 items since its founding. Many large items usually kept in storage are displayed, and the fourth annual silent auction will present special items.

- Family Learning Hub: Storyteller Jan Kinney returns with award-winning tales and traditional yarns. In the Family Room

Building, test your hygiene skills at "Handwashing University," and get tips on increasing savings and reducing debt at "PA Saves."

- Crops and Soils Tent: This area again will present the latest developments in forage, corn, and soybean production. In addition to demonstrations of new tillage practices and displays of crop research, Penn State specialists will be on hand to talk about crop-related production issues.

Ag Progress Days is conducted at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center in Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Rt. 45. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free through Aug. 22, or visit the Ag Progress Days Website at apd.cas.psu.edu.

PDA Tested Rams And Bucks To Sell At New Livestock Evaluation Center

PENNSYLVANIA FURNACE (Huntingdon Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture announced the results of the 2003 Performance Tested Ram and Meat Goat Buck Sale, which took place on Aug. 2 at the new Samuel E. Hayes Jr. Livestock Evaluation Center.

The 44 rams sold averaged \$309, which was a bit higher than last year's average.

The 13 Suffolk rams sold at an average of \$240; 22 Dorset rams, average of \$305; five Hampshires, average of \$375; and additional breeds including Southdown, Polypay, Arcott, and Finn sold at an average of \$215.

In the first performance tested Meat Goat Buck sale, eight fall bucks sold at an average of \$415 and eight spring bucks sold at an average of \$362.

In addition to these sire sales, producers participating in the ram test offered ewes for sale. The ewe sale contained 16 Dorsets, nine Suffolks, four Hampshires, six of other breeds averaging \$225 per ewe for the sale.

The top indexing Suffolk consigned by John Stewart of Hookstown was purchased by Roger Oberlin of Mifflintown for \$250.

The top indexing Dorset ram which was from Spring Creek Farm of Mertztown went to William Robbins of Vincetown, N.J. for \$200.

The top indexing Hampshire from Heth Hamps of Columbia went to Gordon Roup of Danville.

The second highest indexing senior Dorset was the high-selling ram of the day. He was consigned by Justin Smith and was sold to Maria Mulligan of Belmont, N.Y., for \$950. The second high selling ram was the Hampshire consigned by Clyde Brubaker, that also sold to Marie Mulligan for \$800.

The top indexing fall born goat, consigned by Victor Martin, started off the sale and sold for \$575. The top selling meat goat of the day was the fall born, full blood also consigned by Victor Martin. This buck was selected by Sunset Acres, of Martinsburg, W.Va.

The highest indexing junior, a Boer buck, was the consignment from the Minik Farm and he was bought by Dennis Hamm of Lindley, N.Y. for \$525.

The top selling junior goat was the consignment of Robert and Betty Herr that sold for \$890 to Blue Grass Meat Goats.

This was the inaugural sale for the Pennsylvania department of Agriculture's new Samuel E. Hayes Jr. Livestock Evaluation Center. The Livestock Evaluation Center performs

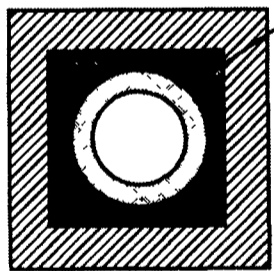
tests on bulls, boars, and gilts in addition to rams and meat goats. Producers from within the state and from adjacent states bring perspective sires to the center for testing and sale. By selecting for specific characteristics, the livestock industry can better the product they produce.

The new Samuel E. Hayes Jr. Livestock Evaluation Center will be dedicated on Aug. 20 during Ag Progress Days. Along with a special ribbon cutting ceremony, the new Livestock Evaluation Center will be

hosting hog producers from around the state for its 28th annual performance tested boar sale and first ever performance tested gilt sale.

For more information on the New Samuel E. Hayes Jr. Livestock Evaluation Center, or the Pennsylvania Performance Testing Programs, contact Glenn Eberly, director, at 1494 West Pine Grove Rd., Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865; phone (814) 238-2527, or e-mail geberly@state.pa.us.

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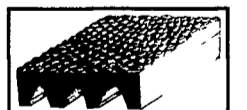
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