

Experience Ag Progress Days

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ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Acres of fun available during Ag Progress Days require more than one day to explore.

This week, from Tuesday through Thursday, visitors at the annual Penn State's College of Agriculture Ag Progress Days found activities to suit every interest and age group.

Farmers throughout the state schedule the annual event into their calendars.

"I can see what's new, and what's available, and it's like a vacation," said dairy farmer Marcus Zook, Juniata County.

Exploring new equipment and watching field machinery demonstrations are what farmers most enjoy. But, many voice the realistic fact stated by Brian Barr, "I come to see all the new equipment I can't afford."

Children find as much pleasure as their parents in climbing over equipment and dreaming of operating it.

But not all visitors are farmers or connected to agriculture business or education. Many visitors attend because the event offers so much to do, and — it's free.

"It's the best place to learn where our food comes from," said Laura Contino, State College.

Joel Hauck, Middleburg, said that he grew up coming to Ag

Progress. But it took him many years to convince his wife that she would enjoy it. Finally, last year, his wife Carolyn consented to visiting the event. She loved it.

Carolyn said, "I thought Ag Progress was just equipment dis-

plays. I never knew there was so many interesting activities for families. My children love it — I guess we'll come every year."

Experience Ag Progress through these photos snapped Tuesday during Ag Progress.



Cheese and crackers beneath a sunny sky are offered, from left, by Jan Harding, Clarion; Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess Ashley Chapman, and Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Rachel Kilgore.



Three brothers, Jarod, 9; Jacob, 5; and Jesse, 6, keep their mother Sharon Kline, Myerstown, busy, while her dairy farmer husband checks out the tractors.



Lots of freebies promoting the dairy industry were available at the ADADC booth operated by, from left, Tracy Enslen, Pittsburgh; Joyce Abercrombie, Pittsburgh; Alexa Stoner, Carlisle; and Jean Kummer, Philadelphia.



Ann and Ben Barshinger and children, Caleb, 6; Benjamin, 3; and Daniel, 1, find a shaded spot to eat lunch. The Barshingers, who are small grain farmers and wholesale tree farmers, are from York County.

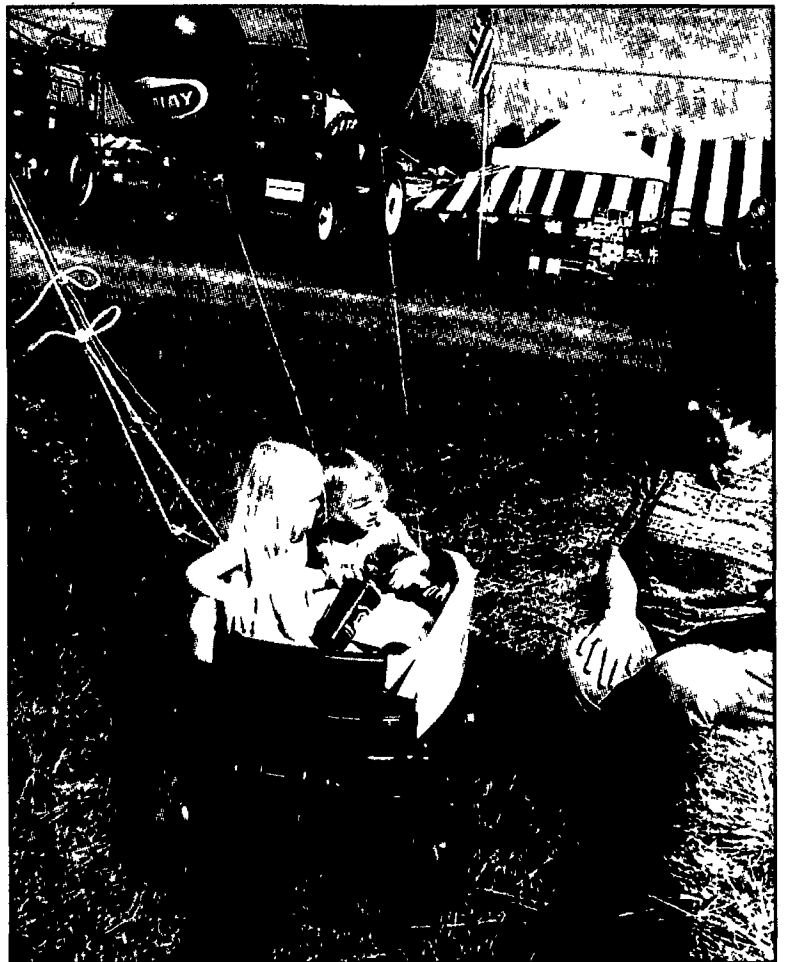
All photos by
Lou Ann Good, food and
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Robin Rex, Columbia County extension nutritionist, holds a plate a breakfast cookies made with whole grains during a workshop demonstration.



At right, cousins Jamie Good, 12, Myersdale, and Janita Good, 13, Womelsdorf, are old enough to explore the grounds on their own. Their families farm.



Twins Kathy and Tory Abbott get a wagon ride around Ag Progress grounds from Grandmother Fay Jester, State College. She said, "I brought my children here when they were little, and they liked it. Now I bring my grandchildren."



Pennsylvania Honey Queen Kristen Miller tastes the State Beekeepers Association's famous chocolate ice cream made with honey.



Cindy Ellenberger of Bonnie Brook Farm, located only two miles from the Ag Progress site, admires a Japanese flower arrangement made during one of the flower arrangement workshops.