



AG SCIENCES 2008

College Enhances Farm Show

The many faces of the College of Agricultural Sciences will be more evident than ever at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, Jan. 5-12 in Harrisburg. The college's showpiece will be a bigger, better exhibit in the Main Exhibits Hall just off the Maclay Street entrance, but the college's presence will be felt throughout the sprawling Farm Show Complex.

A display featuring the college's many decades of nutrient-management research and commitment to environmentally responsible agriculture and protecting the Susquehanna River watershed and Chesapeake Bay will share top billing in the Penn State space with a presentation of the educational and career opportunities available in the ag sciences.

"We're always looking for good students," says J. Marcos Fernandez, associate dean for undergraduate education. "We are excited about showcasing the numerous fulfilling careers associated with agriculture and renewable natural resources at the 2008

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Survey Says... College Newsletter Appreciated

A recent survey of this newsletter's readers revealed that most value the publication, and the majority read or scan most of its contents every month.

Two hundred twenty-five readers responded to the six-question survey, which was conducted online — a response rate of nearly 7 percent. As a result of information collected in the survey, readers will see some changes in coming months.

The college thanks those who responded to the newsletter readership survey.

From Dean Steele...

The holiday and semester break provided a great time to relax and be with friends and family. It was also a time to reflect on the events of the past year and to think ahead to 2008 and what it may bring. We ended 2007 on a solid footing with continued overall enrollment growth of our undergraduate programs and overall enrollment stability in our graduate programs. This came about in large measure due to the ongoing creative and clever efforts of many in our college to revamp and enhance our recruiting activities. These efforts are clearly succeeding with a continued gain in numbers of new students while enhancing the quality of our student population as well. Our students continue to excel in much that they do.

We've continued to work at enhancing the quantity and quality of our physical space in our college with the completion last year of the Ferguson Building renovation and relocation of our Department of Agricultural and Extension Education into that space. This has allowed us to re-program much of the space made available in the Agricultural Administration building as well. Maintaining state-of-the-art facilities has always been a priority for us, and it will continue to be a top priority for us into the future.

We continue to work at building bipartisan support in Harrisburg, Washington and in the counties for our teaching, research and extension programs. As of the writing of this column, we still do not have a new federal Farm Bill nor do we have a federal appropriation for the 07/08 federal fiscal year. Therefore, we continue with our priority to demonstrate the importance, relevance and impact of our programs to our stakeholders and supporters, both old and new. As we are about to enter a presidential election year, the uncertainty

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At Work Around the College

Christina Mullen (below), research technologist in entomology, lugs the paperwork needed to transition test plots at Rock Springs to organic compliance; Roy Knupp (right), research technician in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department, prepares planting media in a greenhouse; and

Sara Ashcraft (below), research technologist in entomology, observes honey bees that have been exposed to chemicals in a laboratory in the Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building.



Dean: Urge Producers to Return Ag Census

As the Pennsylvania field office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service mailed 2007 Census of Agriculture forms to some 98,000 addresses across the state, the dean of our college urged faculty and staff who work with producers to encourage them to return completed forms promptly.

"The entire land-grant university system relies on ag census data to prioritize its work," says Robert Steele. "The research, academic and cooperative extension programs the College of Agricultural Sciences conducts extend throughout the state, and the county-level data the census provides helps us decide which programs to offer and which to expand."

Steele points out that so-called formula funds from the federal government for research and extension also are dependent on ag census data. "When Pennsylvania taxpayers send tax dollars to Washington, information such as the number and distribution of farms, the size of crops and the population of rural Pennsylvania is important in determining how many of those dollars come back to Pennsylvania and to the College of Agricultural Sciences for programs

that are important to the state's producers and consumers."

The ag census, which documents agricultural statistics for every county in the nation, takes place every five years. Producers will be asked about crops grown in 2007, livestock or livestock products sold and animal inventories on hand at the end of the year. Data collected is used by federal, state and local governments, land-grant universities, agribusinesses, grower associations, lenders and many others. The census helps guide agricultural and rural policy, environmental and conservation programs, land-use planning, business investment and other decision making.

Marc Tosiano, director of the ag statistics service Pennsylvania field office, says it's important—indeed required by law—that forms be completed and returned by February 4, regardless of the size of a producer's operation. The same law makes individual information confidential to NASS; it cannot be shared with anyone, including other government agencies.

"About 60 percent of Pennsylvania farms gross less than \$10,000 a year," says Tosiano, "and we sometimes hear

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folks say, 'We're too small to count.' Although these small growers account for only about 3 percent of ag product sales, they control more than a third of Pennsylvania's farmland, so it's important that their voice be heard, too."

Information on the 2007 ag census is available online at www.agcensus.usda.gov or by calling (888) 4AG-STAT.



Chester County Extension Educator Leadership Fellow

Brenda Williams, workforce development extension educator in Chester County, has been named a statewide Leadership Administrative Fellow for Penn State Cooperative Extension for the 2007-2008 program year.

The fellowship program provides an opportunity for a Penn State Cooperative Extension educator or faculty member to participate in professional leadership development activities outside of a formal program of coursework and his/her programmatic area.

"We strive to be a learning organization," says Daney Jackson, director of Penn State Cooperative Extension and university associate vice president for outreach. "This fellowship provides a forum for extension field and faculty educators to assess and strengthen their leadership skills and explore skill development for future leadership roles within the organization."

As a Leadership Administrative Fellow, Williams will commit 25 percent of her program time to the fellowship. In

consultation with the director of extension, she will develop an action plan for the year, including personal development plans, shadowing opportunities and tangible project outcomes for the extension organization.

Williams' fellowship activities will focus on developing a statewide plan for a workforce-development program, identifying faculty and staff interested in workforce development, strengthening workforce-development connections across the university's Outreach organization, colleges and campuses, and determining funding possibilities and strategies.

Williams has been a workforce development extension educator serving both Chester and Delaware counties since 2001. She has led educational programs such as the Community Bridge Project, which helps low-income residents develop life and employment skills in order to make a successful transition from welfare to work. She also is an adjunct professor at Lincoln University, teaching oral communications and reading/study skills.

Prior to joining Penn State, Williams held positions in public education administration and speech pathology, customer

service, and marketing and development for performing arts organizations. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech pathology from Ohio University and a master's degree in educational administration from Youngstown State University. She also completed the Penn State Management Institute certificate program and earned a Leadership Certificate from Penn State Great Valley.



From the Dean...

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and, hence, excitement about the outcome of next November's election will continue to remind us of the importance of building true bipartisan support for our programs.

Finally, the onset of January brings the hallmark event of Pennsylvania agriculture, the State Farm Show. A heartfelt THANK YOU to the more than 100 folks from our college who work tirelessly on this event, both out front and "behind the scenes," to make it the resounding success that it is, year after year. I encourage everyone to take a day and visit the Farm Show this year sometime during its eight-day run.



...Farm Show

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Farm Show. We look forward to meeting with families and students of all ages. There are many, many educational and career opportunities in the agricultural sciences, and it all starts at Penn State, one of the premier agricultural colleges in the nation."

Faculty, staff and students from the college will be on hand with information about the college's programs in the food, agricultural and natural resource sciences. With 21 majors and \$1.8 million in scholarships available, the college has considerable diversity in its academic programs and many educational and life-changing opportunities to offer prospective students, according to Fernandez.

The college exhibit also will include displays featuring Penn State Cooperative Extension's 4-H youth programs and other family-oriented extension education offerings. "The 4-H youth development program exhibit provides an opportunity for extension educators to interact with individuals from urban, suburban and rural areas," says Christy Bartley, program leader for Pennsylvania 4-H. The exhibit will feature hands-on science activities for children.

Near the main Penn State exhibit will be a four-hole miniature golf course that incorporates quiz questions about pesticide safety around the home and farm. Designed for both children and adults, the activity is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Penn State's Pesticide Education Program and the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health, based at Penn State.

Penn State also will take part in the renewable agricultural energy presentation in the new Expo Hall. More than 40 exhibitors will share the latest information on wind, solar, biogas, biodiesel and biomass technologies. The College of Agricultural Sciences will display agricultural crops—such as canola, mustard, camelina and soybean—that can yield biofuels.

"The university is showcasing its diverse research and outreach aimed at taking the abundant biomass resources of Pennsylvania and turning them into energy products," says Tom Richard, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering, who became director of Penn State's Institutes of Energy and the Environment on Jan. 1.

The Pennsylvania Farm Safety and Health Quiz Bowl will be offered by the

college on Wednesday, Jan. 9. Teams representing 4-H and FFA groups will compete in a quiz show format to demonstrate their knowledge of farm safety and health hazards and recommended practices. The quiz bowl also enables participants to increase their leadership and public-speaking skills, according to Dennis Murphy, farm safety specialist and Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Safety and Health.

"The quiz bowl helps young people learn about hazards and safety on farms in a fun way," says Murphy. "The kids can enjoy friendly competition while learning information that they can use for the rest of their lives. Teens answer questions covering many farm-safety issues, such as safety with tractors, mowers and other farm machinery, child safety, first aid, animal care and disease control." The FFA competition starts at noon, and the 4-H competitions begin at approximately 3 p.m.

Agricultural safety and health also will be highlighted in the Exposition Hall, where visitors will have an opportunity to identify hazards and win door prizes at the Farm Hazard Hunt display. In addition, spectators can learn about a variety of programs addressing agricultural emergencies and observe large animal rescue demonstrations in the Equine Arena on Saturday, Jan. 12. Check the program schedule for times.

Each year, more than 100 faculty, county extension educators and staff from the college participate in the Farm Show as committee chairs and members, exhibit personnel, publicity staff and judging coordinators for competitions from beef cattle and poultry to maple products and mushroom.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural event in America, with 24 acres under roof, spread throughout 11 buildings including three arenas. Farm show officials expect more than 400,000 spectators, some 8,000 animals, 13,000 competitive exhibits and nearly 300 commercial exhibitors at the eight-day event. More than \$465,000 in premiums will be offered to competitive exhibitors.

The show runs from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Jan. 5-12, at the Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, at the corner of Cameron and Maclay streets in Harrisburg, just off exit 67 of Interstate 81. Admission is free, and parking is \$5. For more information, visit the Web at <http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us>.



Students Inspire Alumnus to Donate \$100,000 More

When Penn State alumnus George L. Settlemyer, of Port Royal, created a fund in 2005 to help students in the College of Agricultural Sciences pursue international study, he didn't realize at the time what an impact the students would have on him. By expressing their gratitude through letters, postcards and photos sent from around the world, the students benefiting from the fund inspired Settlemyer to contribute an additional \$100,000 to the endowment.

The George L. Settlemyer Fund for International Experiences provides financial assistance through Penn State's Office of International Programs to help undergraduate students in the college who wish to incorporate an international experience into their curriculum. Settlemyer's gift will be added to the existing trust administered by the First National Bank of Mifflintown. Annual income from the trust supports international study-related expenses such as study abroad program costs, language preparation and international internships. First preference is given to students in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences.

Settlemyer graduated from Penn State in 1938 with a bachelor of science in agronomy and went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Wisconsin. After working for General Mills, he became an agricultural extension agent for Penn State Cooperative Extension, a position he held for 33 years. He also served as a director for the First National Bank of Mifflintown.

He also spent many years with Rotary International as district governor for R.I. District 7350, which covers central Pennsylvania and the panhandles of Maryland and West Virginia. He has visited 61 countries, including a trip around the world with his late wife, Ruth Koch Settlemyer. The couple met in 1938 while they were students at Penn State. She graduated from the university in 1939 and was an elementary school teacher for 19 years.

The Settlemyers have made previous gifts to Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the College of Education and the University Libraries.



We're on the Web:
www.cas.psu.edu

The Back Page

Up and Coming...

- ▼ **January 5-12.** The Pennsylvania Farm Show, State Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Call (717) 787-5373 or (717) 787-2905.
- ▼ **January 6-12.** Penn State Ice Cream Short Course, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pa. Contact Bob Roberts at (814) 863-2959.
- ▼ **January 12-13.** NADAC Canine Agility Trial, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Ag Arena, UP. Contact Vickie VanderVere at (814) 419-0872.
- ▼ **January 15.** Martin Luther King Day.
- ▼ **January 20.** AAKA Dog Agility Trial, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Carol Metz at (717) 483-6587, 7 a.m. -4 p.m.
- ▼ **January 26-27.** Ice Cream 101: Introduction to Frozen Desserts, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pa. Contact Bob Roberts at (814) 863-2959.
- ▼ **January 31.** Penn State Ag Machinery Equipment Auction, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Lion Surplus, (814) 865-4371.
- ▼ **February 1-2.** 4-H State Volunteer Leaders Forum, Penn Stater Conference Center, State College, Pa. Contact Conferences and Short Courses at (814) 865-8301.



Faculty/Staff Alert

Statewide Training Opportunities from Information Technologies

Information Technologies, which conducts in-services and other training opportunities open to all personnel in the college, is offering a wide variety of trainings over the next few months. For the complete list of topics and dates, along with a description of these trainings, please visit the Web at <http://ict.cas.psu.edu> and click on "Computer Training." To see the time of each class and to register, click on "Scheduled Training," select the topic, enter your information and click "Submit." Each class must have a minimum of eight participants registered five days prior to the training date to hold a session. Each session will be delivered via Adobe Connect using Internet Explorer, so no travel is required.

Participants will receive information to access the Adobe Connect meeting space and the phone number to dial for the audio portion prior to the training.

The following classes are being offered:

▼ **Excel 07: Basics**—A hands-on introduction to Microsoft Excel 2007. You will enter data and learn to make changes as you gain an understanding of features of the program that will assist you in creating great-looking spreadsheets and charts. (Two-session course) Dates: Jan. 17 and 24, Feb. 19 and 26, and March 12 and 19.

▼ **Office 07: Excel Overview**—A demonstration of new features in Microsoft Excel. The location of commonly used tools and context-specific tools on the Ribbon will be discussed. Features of the new Page Layout view and differences in charting tools will be explored. The new file format will also be discussed. Dates: Jan. 9, Jan. 10, Jan. 14 and Jan. 17.

▼ **Office 07: PowerPoint Overview**—A demonstration of new features in Microsoft PowerPoint. Tools commonly used to begin a presentation will be explored along with the use of related galleries. SmartArt graphics will be introduced as a new slide feature. The new file format will also be addressed in this session. Date: Jan. 8.

▼ **Outlook 07: Information Management**—Tips and techniques to deal with information. You can learn to create rules to filter e-mails, use the instant-search feature, understand flags and reminders, use Penn State Directory Services and the global

address list and drag e-mails to your calendar and tasks. Dates: Jan. 16, Feb. 5 and March 20.

▼ **Outlook 07: Meeting Management**—Techniques for using Outlook 2007 with Exchange to create or update a meeting request, invite from global lists or contacts, see a group schedule and give team members permission to see your calendar. It also presents categories (why and how to use them) and resources (inviting meeting rooms). Dates: Jan. 23, Feb. 12 and March 20.

▼ **PowerPoint 07: Basics**—Hands-on training to teach users to create more professional presentations with PowerPoint. From an on-screen slide show with such special effects as animated bullet points, to speaker's notes and audience handouts, your presentation will come alive. Find new ways to create a great presentation using slides or direct displays of your important data and photos. Explore creative new methods of making your words come alive with SmartArt, new shape styles, transitions and animations. (Two-session course) Dates: Jan. 15 and 22, Feb. 6 and 13, and March 11 and 18.



On the Move...

New Faces

Francis J. McCarthy, program assistant in Allegheny County

Sara K. Dinh, associate extension educator in Lancaster County

JoZane Cardamone, associate coordinator for grants and contracts in the Office of the Dean

Farm Operations



▲ **Luke Walton, a junior in the Animal Science program, braves the cold at the Beef Center by helping direct the cleaning of stalls that house some of the college's Angus cattle.**

Partings

David Spaar, programmer/analyst in information technologies

Ryan Wellar, information technology specialist in veterinary and biomedical sciences

Retirements

David DeWalle, professor of forest resources

Clyde A. B. Myers, senior extension educator in Berks County



More About Us...

Births

Alexander William Levis was born to Luke and **Cathy Levis** on Sept. 18. Cathy is the project database specialist for Nutrition Links.

George Dills Jr. was born to April and **George Dills** on Nov. 4. George is a research support technologist in crop and soil sciences.

Death

Barbara K. Hess, laboratory attendant in the Animal Diagnostic Laboratory from 1965 until her retirement in 1984, died Nov. 14 at the age of 85.



Comments...

If you have comments about this issue of *Ag Sciences 2007* or suggestions for future issues, please call Jeff Mulhollem at (814) 863-2719 or send e-mail to jjm29@psu.edu. Send Back Page items to Gary Abdullah at gxa2@psu.edu.

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