

# A Family Event

## Full Agenda At UK Field Day Draws Interest Of Young And Old Alike

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### PRINCETON, KY.

The University of Kentucky Field Day at Princeton drew crowds from many surrounding states as it offered a varied agenda to fulfill every interest. Don Hershman, University of Kentucky extension plant pathologist, organized the event.

"People come from Northwest Tennessee, Southeast Missouri and sometimes from Arkansas, always from Southern Illinois and Indiana, and occasionally Ohio," Hershman said. "This is the College of Agriculture Field Day and we have been doing it every other year

people's interest. Actually, to be honest, some of the older folks like me are interested in these things as well. It is neat to go through youth row. There is a petting zoo and a lot of safety related things that are aimed at educating while having fun. The kids are the future of the country and teaching them how to live right, eat right and be safe on the farm is important."

The last several field days also have focused on family consumer science displays, activities and exhibits, again with an emphasis on the whole family. Therefore, recipes and historical heritage foods had an extensive display area. All of it is education or information based.



Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

Spending a few moments visiting at the University of Kentucky Field Day at Princeton are, from left, F H Spiceland, Murray, Ky., Don Hershman, UK Plant Pathologist of Princeton, and Don Boyd, Kimbel County, Ky.

for the last 30-40 years."

Crowds numbered in the 2,000 to 2,100, and there was plenty educational events to interest everyone. The event began as an agriculture and production tour and the program still contains these. However, the agenda now includes information for row crop and forage producers, there was a beef tour, and horticultural offerings have been added. As if that weren't enough, an orchard tour with information on ornamentals was also included.

"There are a lot of production tours that are aimed primarily at producers, but anybody that is interested in learning about how their food is produced can find out here," Hershman added.

The event even focused on how pesticides are used and environmental issues. Visitors learned where their food comes from and the care that is put into managing and producing the food.

"The last several field days we have tried to make it more of a family event," he added. "Like the No-Till Field Day at Milan, it has almost a state fair feel to it and we have decided to purposely keep it educational. We don't have commercial booths and that is just to keep the focus on the educational aspect."

Through the years the youth activities have been increased. Today's youth area is called "youth row."

"Our 4-H extension agents have done an excellent job of coming together and they are really experts at knowing what draws young

"Last year we had a full contingent of about 60 exhibits," Hershman said. "Kentucky State University brought its satellite uplink truck and that is something that NBC would have. The technology is pretty interesting. It is not being utilized to actually uplink today, but is just being displayed and there seems to be considerable interest in that.

"We are just trying to do what a land grant university does," he added. "We take whatever cutting edge information we are generating, the research, the experience and observation to the public. That is what an extension land grant system does, so we are being true to our calling."

Hershman explained that since the Milan No-Till Field Day has gone to every other year, it's nice that the Princeton Field Day fills in on Milan's off years.

"Instead of competing with each other, we are feeding interest in each other, and that has been a good thing," he said.

The event was well organized and Hershman wouldn't take all the credit himself.

"I don't really do anything other than just pray a lot and hope things run smoothly and delegate," he said. "The farm managers, supervisors, in particular Donnie Davis, I just walk around shaking my head thinking how did they remember to do that. They have a huge list of things to do and sometimes I even take it for granted. I see them every day so I have to thank them myself for the great job they do here." △