

Empire Farm Days

Seneca Falls, NY

August 6 - 8, 2002

General Information about Empire Farm Days:

Empire Farm Days is the northeast's largest outdoor agricultural fair that attracts over 75,000 attendants consisting of producers, growers, foresters, educators, equine interests groups, and policy-makers, plus more than 600 exhibitors representing 3,000 agricultural brand names. This annual event is located on 300 acres of the Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls, NY. Along with the vast expansion of exhibitors, there were also daily demonstrations; including such events as field demos, phosphorus research trials, and cover crop demos. Seminars and presentations were also a large part of this event, some seminar topics covered included; dairy profits, deer management. Presentations were conducted by such groups as the Equine Center, the Farm Bureau Family Center, the New York Beef Council as well as the USDA Center, and Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Public Seed Initiative Exhibit:

Teri Ferrin, John Oughterson, Dave Sharman, Deborah Johnston, Bill Garman, and Bob Martens (all from the USDA-ARS, Plant Genetic Resource Unit) along with Matt Falise (Cornell University's Department of Plant Breeding) and Michael Glos (NOFA-NY) participated in the PSI exhibit. Daily demonstrations were given showing *Brassica* seed processing: from threshing the silique in the belt thresher to the fully cleaned seed tumbling out of the velvet roll separator. Some of the equipment traveling with the Mobile Seed Processing Unit was also displayed, including the belt thresher, air column, clipper mill, wet vegetable seed separator, and velvet roll separator. Unfortunately, a steady water supply was unavailable to demonstrate tomato seed processing using the wet vegetable seed separator, but whole tomatoes donated from J. Edward Davie Farms, Geneva, NY were on display along with already processed tomatoes which had been fermenting for two days.

Pictures from Empire Farm Days 2002:



John Oughterson and Bill Garman processing *Brassica* seed using the belt thresher.



Brassica seed from the belt thresher.



Bill Graman cleaning the *Brassica* seed with the air column.



John Oughterson demonstrating the velvet roller separator to Empire Farm Days visitors