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New Farm Show Complex Master Plan Ready

A master plan for Pennsylvania's proposed new Farm Show complex will be unveiled at the 55th Farm Show January 11-15.

Sketches of a suggested multi-level structure, and its proposed site on a 290-acre tract between Interstate Route 81 and Elmerston Avenue, will be displayed in the main lobby of the Farm Show building, State Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull said.

"We have discussed these plans with the Farm Show Com-

mission, Farm Show exhibitors, and other users of the facilities," Secretary Bull said.

"We also have discussed them with Mayor Harold A. Swenson, State Senator D. Elmer Hawbaker, chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, and Representative W. Brady Hertrick, chairman of the House Agricultural Committee, and with other key people representing interested rural and urban groups.

Secretary Bull pointed out that the sketches are the pre-

liminary presentations of the architects and planners — Poir, Loddengaard and Parsons, and the Ballinger Company. "They have translated into these sketches," he explained, "the information gathered in two previous phases of the Farm Show Site Plan and Study.

"We have sought the reaction, opinions and suggestions of interested groups and individuals before we go into the final planning stage," Secretary Bull added. "We want to be sure that we have examined every possibility and have explored every line of reasoning before finalizing the plans.

"Everyone realizes that we are planning for the future, and that we must incorporate those features that will best serve the need for these facilities in the years ahead."

Rolf G. Loddengaard, of the architectural firm, said the salient features of the master plan are:

Easy access to the site from Interstate 81 and from streets bordering the area.

A loop road encircling the site for rapid movement of vehicular traffic to all parking areas and service entrances.

A pedestrian walkway, or "spine," protected from the weather that will afford the shortest and most direct routes from parking areas to exhibition centers.

Main buildings, basically of two levels, with a total of about 15 million square feet of floor space.

A main exhibition area of about 550,000 square feet of floor space, more than double that of the present Farm Show structure.

Two arenas, one with a seating capacity of 15,000, the other with capacity for 3,500, plus additional seating that will be dependent on the type of activity.

Unloading facilities for trucks that will not conflict with activities in progress or with the movement of spectators in any of the exhibition areas.

"We have incorporated in the master plan a high degree of flexibility that will permit multiple and simultaneous use of these facilities," Loddengaard pointed out. He also said the complex would have a controlled atmosphere system and an automated method of waste removal and disposal.



Dr. Gordon E. Dickerson, right, Research Geneticist, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center and Professor of Animal Science, University of Nebraska, was honored at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science held at the Pennsylvania State University, for his outstanding work in the field of animal breeding and genetics.

Presenting the award, a plaque and a \$1,000 check, is Dr. Robert E. Walton, President of American Breeders Service, Inc., DeForest, Wisconsin, sponsors of the award.

Dr. Dickerson was recognized for his "distinguished service to the nation's livestock industry." He has made many contributions in developing techniques applicable to problems in systems of mating and selection procedures. As a research geneticist for the USDA and Canadian Department of Agriculture, Dickerson's work has led to a better understanding of the biological basis for expected and observed results.

Farm Credit Office Lowers Interest 1%

The Farm Credit Office has announced a one-per cent reduction in its interest rates.

The new loan rate of eight per cent on mortgage loans will be effective by the Lancaster Production Credit Association January 1 and by the Land Bank Association February 16.

The Farm Credit Office covers Lancaster, Lebanon and Dauphin counties.

Carl A. Brown, Credit Office manager, said that the new eight per cent rate will apply to loans which were previously written at a higher rate, as well as to the new loans. The loans with rates higher than eight per cent generally were those written within the past six months, he said.

Brown noted that loans written in the years prior to the past six months are nearly all lower

than eight per cent and these will remain unchanged. The firm still has some loans of only four per cent, he said.

The Credit Office's move follows several announcements in recent weeks by local banks of interest rate reductions. Brown said most commercial bank mortgage rates in this area are in the eight and one-half to eight per cent range, mostly around eight per cent, following drops in recent weeks by about one-quarter to three-quarters per cent. Rates nationally have been declining for two to three months.

The interest rate decline stems primarily from increases in the national supply of money, making money "much more readily available," Brown said.

Although the Credit Office had some money available even during the tightest parts of the credit squeeze during the past year, money is more liquid now at the lower rates, Brown said.

Looking ahead, Brown sees some continued pressures for lower interest rates. He sees further rate decreases of one-quarter to one-half per cent by mid-1971, although he noted some economists are predicting up to a full one per cent rate drop.

But Brown also foresees tighter money again by late summer or fall.

He added, however, that predictions on the future of the interest rate cannot be made with any certainty. While the federal government is now moving to spur the economy and make money more readily available, it is uncertain how the economy will respond. If the economy picks up, this would tend to increase the demand for money and bring on new pressures for higher interest rates, he explained.

The individual farmer who needs the money and can use it profitably at today's rates should proceed to make arrangements for the money he needs, Brown advised.

Brown indicated he doesn't think the farmer should wait for lower interest rates, because the rates may not go much lower and money could get tight again.

Farm Calendar

Monday, January 4

7 p.m.—Lancaster County Farmers Association Annual Membership Kickoff, Witmer Fire Hall.

11th Annual Ohio Roadside Marketing Conference, Center for Tomorrow, Ohio State University, January 4-5.

Tuesday, January 5

4:30 p.m.—Agriculture teachers meeting, Mount Joy Vo-Tech School.

7:30 p.m.—Ephrata Adult Farmers feeding course, Vocational Agriculture Department, Ephrata High School.

7:30 p.m.—Pennsylvania Farmers Association board meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Wednesday, January 6

7:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm and Home Center.

Thursday, January 7

1:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Tobacco Show, Farm and Home Center.

7:30 p.m.—4-H County Council, Farm and Home Center.

8 p.m.—Lancaster County Poultry Association board of directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Isolate Show Birds

Poultry exhibited at the Farm Show are exposed to many diseases not common to their flock of origin. These show birds should be kept separate from the main flock after the snow for at least 30 days, Jay W. Irwin, associate county agent, reminded poultrymen this week.

Most infections contracted by poultry at shows will break before the 30-day isolation period is up. If there are no breaks, then it is probably safe to place these birds back with the flock. In the event that disease

strikes, however, the birds should not be put back with the flock. Recovered birds remain carriers and shedders of certain diseases, Irwin said.

Many disease breaks can be averted by establishing a sound vaccination program.

However, there is no reliable vaccine available for some of the bacterial diseases for which the recovered birds remain carriers. Examples of these are coryza and fowl cholera.

Be on guard for coccidiosis, too, because the show birds may have no immunity to certain species. Look for a coccidiosis break one to three weeks after bringing the birds home, Irwin said.

The Farm Show Issue

Our special Lancaster Farming Annual Farm Show Issue will be coming your way next Saturday, January 9.

The Farm Show Issue will have story previews of the 55th annual State Farm Show, a complete schedule of Farm Show events and other special features — plus the regular local farm news. For further information, call us at 394-3047 or 626-2191.



Happy New Year