

# Maryland agricultural showcase on the road

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - Heavy snowfall on February 7 caused cancellation of the official ribbon cutting ceremony. But the show went ahead anyway, as Baltimore county farm groups staged the 1979 kick-off of "Agriculture Week" displays last week, for the second consecutive year, at Eastpoint Mall, located near the Canton Industrial Park, just east of the Baltimore city limits.

Their effort was not to be confused with the nationwide farmers' "tractorcade" in nearby Washington, D.C., which was drawing much bigger news coverage during that time.

The Baltimore county educational displays helped to extend the aims of Maryland Agriculture Week, being held for the tenth consecutive year. This year's Ag Week theme is "Maryland—Land of Milk and Honey." Posters with a cow's head and a circling bee helped to carry out the theme among the Baltimore county displays.

Included again this year

were the popular meat-cutting demonstrations. They involved cutting up whole chickens into retail parts, boning pork loins, and carving "high-priced" steaks from a moderately priced beef roast.

W. Max Buckel, Extension agricultural agent, again coordinated the Baltimore county Ag Week activities.

This week (Feb. 12-17), the peripatetic Ag Week show has moved on to the Harundale Mall, located south of Glen Burnie in northern Anne Arundel county. It marks the third year at this location.

Next week (February 19-24), the show will be in Salisbury Mall, at the east edge of Salisbury, on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore.

Then the show recrosses the Chesapeake Bay for the final three-week run in central and western Maryland. That schedule is as follows: Feb. 26-March 3—Fredericktowne Mall at the west edge of Frederick; March 5-10—Valley Mall at the southwest edge of

Hagerstown; March 12-17—Montgomery Mall in West Bethesda.

Appropriately, National FFA Week (Feb. 17-24) falls approximately midway in this year's Maryland Ag Week display series. And FFA chapter members from nearby high schools are planning to participate in most of the shopping mall activities.

Other participating, farm-oriented organizations include the Maryland Pork Producers Association, Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, Maryland Agricultural Safety and Health Federation and the Delaware-Maryland Plant Food Association.

In addition, the Maryland dairy industry will be represented by a big 12-foot by 45-foot "Milk's the One" display. And the Maryland 4-H Foundation will be involved.

The University of Maryland's College of Agriculture will be represented by career

displays for youth in four-year agricultural and aquacultural engineering academic programs. And the Institute of Applied Agriculture will present displays on career possibilities for graduates of its two-year programs in horticulture, turfgrass management and business farming.

Over-all supervisor again this year for the shopping mall displays is Roy D. Porter, Extension coordinator of special communications at the University of Maryland in College Park. Porter will also present most of the meat-cutting demonstrations.

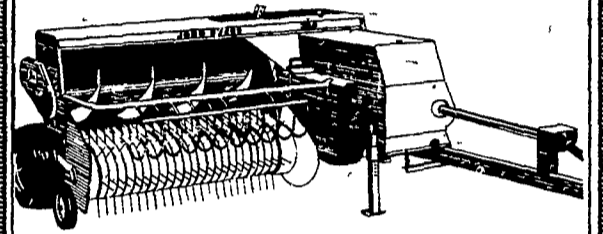
Porter estimates that last year's round of winter-time agricultural displays at six shopping malls, plus a similar fall display in November during the fifth annual "Downtown Country Fair" at Baltimore's Lexington Market, played to a total potential audience of

more than one million persons. He expects similar exposure for the displays this year—barring inclement weather or other adversities.



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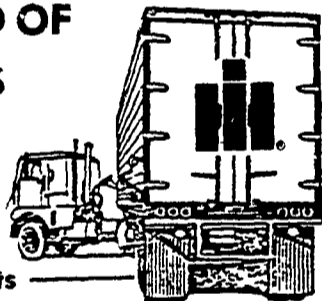
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