

Lancaster Farming

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Stock tractor pulls were an Expo first and highlighted the second annual show.

Expo opens at Harrisburg

BY SHEILA MILLER
HARRISBURG — The Farm Machinery Exposition kicked off its second year with a number of changes. This year's event was opened on Wednesday evening with an exhibitors banquet, held at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture building. Roughly 100 people turned

out for the evening of socializing. Unfortunately, PDA Secretary Hallowell, his assistant Chet Heim, and the Farm Show Director, Hugh Coffman had to cut their visits short because of a budget conference with the Governor.

Thursday morning opened with the draft horse and mule show, another first for Expo. The show was followed by a tack sale, and then the horses exhibited in the morning's show were auctioned off. See accompanying story.

One of the key exhibits had a rough time getting off the ground, on Thursday. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board would not allow Martin Distributors to set up their still demonstration because they said Martins didn't have a permit.

According to Hugh Coffman, LCB told Martins they didn't get the application to set up the still on the Farm Show Complex site until this past Wednesday. "They told Martins it would be a few days until they processed their application, and it's obvious that by the time it was processed the Expo would be over."

Coffman explained with Secretary Hallowell's help and telephone calls to the LCB officials, the misunderstanding should be cleared up and the still in operation. At press time, the Farm Show staff and the LCB representatives will be conferring and hopefully resolving the difficulty.

The PDA officials had the traditional ribbon cutting ceremonies at noon on Thursday, along with a kick-off luncheon. The luncheon was held in the main exhibit hall of the machinery display area, and about 100 people turned out to listen to

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Straw poll to be computed from Equipment Expo guests

BY CURT HARLER
HARRISBURG — Candidates for several state and national political offices were on hand throughout the Farm Equipment Exposition to field questions from farmers.

And the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture ran its own version of the November election by giving visitors the opportunity to vote in a straw election.

Results from the straw poll will be counted on Monday, March 3.

Voter interest appeared strong as the Second Annual Farm Equipment Exposition opened Thursday.

Interest in the candidates

themselves started out quite slowly.

At the opening of the Expo politicians and their representatives were located in the poultry barn. There were no other exhibits in the poultry barn and the political arena was overlooked by the majority of the crowd.

Later on Thursday the candidates' tables were moved into the concourse between the main exhibit floor and the barn housing horses. With the move, candidates found increased exposure to the public.

Indeed, some feared the highlight of the day for the political arena would be the crashing to the floor of a large sign to attract visitors to the area.

The mishap was greeted with cheers from those present.

David Heisey, representing Ed Howard, the Bucks County candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke for most of those in the political area when he said farmers were asking few questions.

He said most guests asked if Howard were a Republican. When assured he is, the guests would say "that's good" and walk on.

Lucille O'Brien, working for Attorney General Candidate Al Benedict, agreed that most passers-by asked few questions but said they were taking literature readily.

The George Bush table was one of the few which reported much active interest.

Russell Davis, representing the Republican presidential hopeful, said many people seem not to have made up their minds on who they will vote for in the upcoming election.

"They are looking at the man and the issues," he said. He added that most farmers were not talking agricultural issues, but were stressing general problems like inflation.

Most of the candidates' representatives would agree with opinions expressed by supporters of Roy Zimmerman for attorney general.

While pointing out that few persons were asking questions—and that many seemed unaware the attorney general's position is for the first time elective—the farmers seemed to take the election seriously.

Farmers slaughter beef checkoff plan

strongly against the beef checkoff.

In a previous beef checkoff vote, held two years ago, farmers in dairy states

generally opposed the program.

States like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and New York

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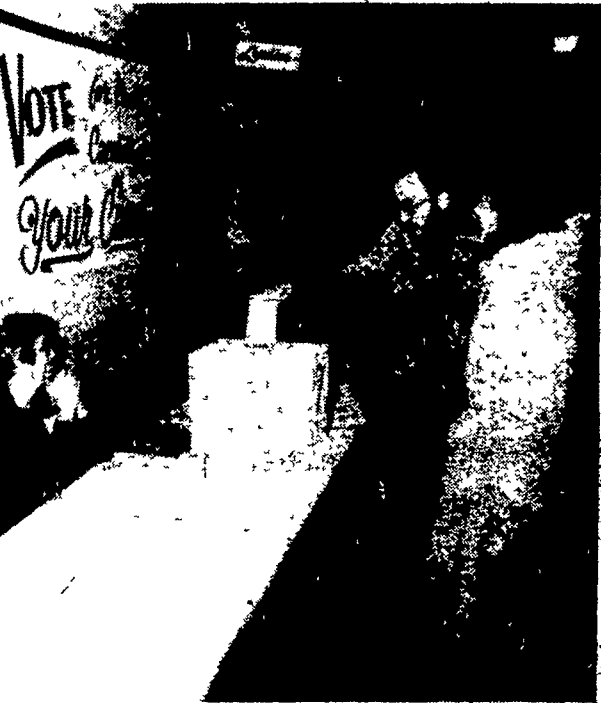
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Philip and Sharon Cunio, Carlisle, were among many Expo guests to cast ballots in the Department of Agriculture's straw vote. Manning the booth is Department employee Peg Crumling.

Farmers continuing effort to replace bridge

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
FALMOUTH — After a year and a half of contacts with officials in four municipalities, a group of farmers in Lancaster and Dauphin counties remain unsuccessful in their efforts to have a burned-out bridge replaced over the Conewago Creek.

"It looks as if we may be pretty much at the end of the line, but we're still hoping that something can be done," Clair Nissley, who farms on the Dauphin County side of the creek, said.

Nissley accompanied by some neighboring farmers in both counties, appeared at this week's meeting of Lancaster County Commissioners to continue the long-standing plea for replacement of the Nissley Mill Bridge, which was burned by vandals in August, 1978.

As farmers, one of our major concerns is the

transport of our equipment back and forth across the creek to get to different fields," Nissley said.

He explained that the bridge had been used quite extensively before the fire not only by farmers, but by Lancaster County residents who commuted to work in the Middletown and Harrisburg areas.

An alternate route can be utilized along Rt. 441, according to Nissley, but is not as suitable as the township roads leading to the bridge.

"The other route is much busier, particularly early in the morning, and more dangerous for operating slow-moving farm equipment," he said. "We have a skid-steer loader and have noticed how much worse it is when we couldn't use the township roads."

Nissley and Christian G. Becker, who farms on the Lancaster County side of the creek, have particular difficulty in moving their

equipment." The two farmers jointly own and use various pieces of equipment in their operations on both sides of the creek.

"During the season, hardly a day goes by that we wouldn't use the bridge,"

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Farmers slaughter beef checkoff plan

LANCASTER — Locally, and across Pennsylvania, farmers voted overwhelmingly against the proposed beef checkoff plan.

A national tabulation will not be made until some time late the first week of March.

The proposed checkoff program calls for assessment of 20 cents per \$100 of the value of cattle marketed. Money gathered would be used for promotion of the beef industry.

Pennsylvania had 8977 farmers registered to vote. Just 789 voted for, with 6855

against. About 100 ballots were disqualified.

In Maryland, 717 farmers registered to vote. A total of 316 were for the referendum, 264 against.

Vote tabulators in Maryland noted no difference in voting trends between the Eastern Shore and the rest of the state.

Delaware, with 34 producers eligible to vote, cast 8 ballots for the program, 29 against. Two ballots were disqualified.

It came as little surprise to most observers that farmers in Pennsylvania should vote