

This year's Farm Show different than the first

HARRISBURG— The 65th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show, which will run January 11 to 16 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, provides an amazing contrast with the original event held in a downtown Harrisburg farm machinery dealership in January 1917, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

The first Farm Show resulted from a meeting of

six farm leaders held in Lancaster in August 1916, called by Charles E. Patton, then Secretary of Agriculture.

Hallowell noted that for 16 years, farm organizations across the state had been agitating for a statewide farm show or fair. State fairs had been held in various cities from 1851 until 1899, when the rising tide of county fairs and their midway attractions forced

the abandonment of a state fair.

"Farmers in those days were not looking for the midway type of agricultural exposition. They wanted a strictly educational show with exhibits and meetings of their farm organizations," Hallowell said. "That objective has held true for 65 years."

The first Farm Show at 10th and Market Streets in Harrisburg attracted an

estimated 5000 farm and city people. By comparison, 100 times that many - half a million visitors can be expected for the 65th Farm Show in January.

That 1917 show was called The Pennsylvania Corn, Fruit, Vegetable, Dairy Products and Wool Show. Exhibits were limited to the products mentioned in the name.

The 1917 show was held for (Turn to Page C32)



'You've come a long way, baby' would be an appropriate comment for anyone strolling through the rows and rows of cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, and horses. Exhibitors too, have changed over the years — bringing all the 'necessities' of home along for the week-long competition.

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