

## Monday night will be Ag Secretary's night

HARRISBURG — Country music, equestrian showmanship and the recognition of Pennsylvania's outstanding Farm Show family and agribusiness will highlight Secretary of Agriculture's

Night, January 12, at the State Farm Show.

Country Current, the United State Navy Band's country and bluegrass unit, will open the evening's activities with a performance beginning at 7

p.m. in the Large Arena of the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell said, "We are pleased to have the Navy's nationally acclaimed country and

bluegrass band perform at the State Farm Show."

He noted the evening event is free and open to the public. Following Country Current's performance, Secretary Hallowell will address the audience and

announce the recipients of the prestigious Farm Show Family of the year award and the first Pennsylvania Agribusiness Award.

Hallowell said, "Beginning last year, the Farm Show Commission designated a committee to select an outstanding farm family at each year's Farm Show. This year we have decided to recognize the equally outstanding promotional accomplishments of the state's agribusiness industries as well."

Lieutenant Governor William W. Scranton III; Miss Pennsylvania, Anita Patton of Lebanon; and State Secretary of Aging

Gorham Black will participate in the presentation ceremonies.

Secretary Black will present an award to the oldest Pennsylvania farmer at the Farm Show. Senior citizens are encouraged to stop Monday at the Senior Citizens Corral near the main entrance on the Maclay Street side to sign up for the contest.

Following these special ceremonies, the audience will be entertained again by Country Current who will perform a medley of country and bluegrass favorites.

The program will conclude with a demonstration by the Cumberland Valley 4-H Horse and Pony Drill Team



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## Expect bad weather on 2 Show days

HARRISBURG — There's an old Pennsylvania proverb that says Farm Show Week and bad weather go together. This idea has gained such acceptance that any type of "bad" weather in January has Harrisburg residents talking about "Farm Show Weather."

Every year Farm Show officials keep their fingers crossed weatherwise. They look at weather reports of Farm Show Weeks beginning with the first Farm Show in 1917. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office in Harrisburg provides records which reveal that the average Farm Show over the 65-year period has experienced only two days of inclement weather.

The 1980 Farm Show was "average weatherwise," with two days of snow totaling just over one inch. Temperatures for the week ranged from a low of 11 degrees to a high of 48 degrees.

State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, Chairman of the State Farm Show Commission, notes that there have been 36 Farm Show Weeks with less than one inch of snow, and 19 Farm Show Weeks with less than one inch of snow, and 19 show weeks with no snow at all.

"The nice thing about the Farm Show is that no amount of bad weather can dampen the enthusiasm of the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come to

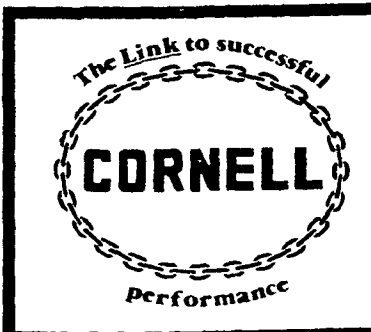
Harrisburg every January," according to Hallowell. "From the opening ceremonies on Sunday, Jan. 11, through the sale of the Champion 4-H Baby Beef, our show generates enthusiasm for all."

Five shows have had perfect weather, according to NOAA records. The four-day shows in 1921 and 1922, the five-day shows in 1934, 1953 and 1973, all shared this Farm Show record. The 1973 show broke all existing attendance records as 750,000 visitors flocked to Harrisburg in crisp, clear winter weather.

"The biggest snowfalls in Farm Show history," Hallowell said, "came in 1964 with 18 inches of snow on the ground, in 1918 with 16 inches of snow and in 1970, when a Sunday night snowfall put 14 inches on the ground. The 1964 snow, 18 inches, was far and away the worst in Farm Show history."

Zero temperature weather struck only two Farm Shows, with six days below zero recorded in 1936 and two below zero recorded in 1957. The high temperature for a Farm Show was hit in 1972 when the thermometer struck 66 degrees.

Hallowell said that while chances are against a perfect weather week, four out of the past ten Farm Shows have had only one day of bad weather and better than one-half have had only two days of inclement weather.



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