

Showman leaves ring after 42 years

FARM SHOW — Though the week is long and the schedule is full of early mornings and late nights, every year many of the same faces can be seen in the showing of the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

What makes the show so appealing that these annual buffs keep coming back year after year?

"It's the excitement and the familiar faces I like to come back to see people I know," says 42 year veteran Kenneth Moore of Bradford County.

"I first started showing at Farm Show in 1938 and have showed every year since, except for the year it was closed after the war," Moore said.

Moore operates a sheep farm of 500 Shropshires, Hampshires, Dorsets and Rambouillets in Nichols, New York.

I live so far north in Pennsylvania that my address is New York and yet I still brought 34 sheep down this year. I just enjoy it, that's all," Moore added.

Perhaps, amongst other reasons, it's the feeling of being a champion that brings Moore back. The first year he participated he received a ribbon for Champion Shropshire ewe. This year he received awards for Champion Hampshire ram, Reserve Champion Dorset ewe, Champion Rambouillet ram, Reserve Champion Rambouillet ram, Champion Rambouillet ewe and Reserve Champion Rambouillet ewe.

I couldn't begin to tell you what all I've won. After 42 years, it's hard to keep count," he smiled.

But though the years have been many, Moore denies

any tales of Farm Show changing through the years.

I don't think Farm Show has changed that much. It's bigger and there are more people participating each year, but that's all," Moore said. "If there were any changes at all, they are that

the prices are higher and there used to be a lot more room for the sheep. Now we're pretty crowded."

Moore, who raises his sheep with the help of his daughter, Doris Powell and his son Robert Moore, said his interest in sheep all

began when he was 16 years old.

That was when I bought my first sheep. I just decided I wanted to show sheep, so I purchased six Shropshire sheep from a guy who trusted me for the money I didn't have it for a while, but when I finally saved him I

still had money left to purchase more. From there my farm just grew."

And so did his years as shower and champion at the Farm Show. But Moore says now when he comes back it will be strictly as spectator, not showman anymore. DK

Breeding soybeans for enhanced productivity

BELTSVILLE, Md. — USDA geneticist Thomas E. Devine, told science writers here recently that he expects to increase soybean productivity using a soybean plant that was once thought to be of no economic value.

The plants were considered practically valueless because they are incapable of fixing their own nitrogen.

At a seminar held by USDA's Science and Education Administration, Devine explained that soybeans, as well as other legumes, are infected by helpful soil bacteria called rhizobia.

These bacteria can change inert nitrogen gas, through a process called "fixing," into a form that the plant needs for growth. The plant provides the bacteria with nutrients from photosynthesis and with a place to grow within a rounded root enlargement or nodule. This type of mutually beneficial relationship, called symbiosis, reduces the need for fertilization of legume crops.

In most soils there are indigenous Rhizobium japonicum bacteria which readily infect soybean roots and form nodules. However, these Rhizobium vary

greatly in their ability to fix nitrogen. Many indigenous strains are less efficient in fixing nitrogen than the better strains not available. Devine described a plan to use a soybean that excludes most indigenous Rhizobium and to inoculate this plant with strains of Rhizobium that would infect it exclusively. His goal is to create a symbiosis that fixes nitrogen more efficiently with these rhizobia than the indigenous rhizobia.

In 1954 researchers reported a seemingly valueless soybean plant that would not fix nitrogen in the presence of most Rhizobium. The gene responsible for the non-nodulation is called rj1.

Devine is backcrossing soybean plants having the

rj1 gene with commercially used soybeans to create cultivars that would exclude the less-efficient indigenous rhizobia.

Devine, with associates in SAE's Cell Culture and Nitrogen Fixation Laboratory, is searching for highly efficient strains of rhizobia that have the genetic potential to nodulate the new cultivars carrying the rj1 gene. In 1977 he planted soybeans with the rj1 gene in a field known to contain many Rhizobium.

An examination of 30,000 plants disclosed only 34 root nodules. In a similar test in 1978 he found only 123 nodules on 182,000 plants. Under normal conditions all the soybeans would be nodulated.

The nodules were removed from the rj1 plants and the Rhizobium were isolated from them. Young plants were then infected with the isolates. Although some strains formed nodules, the number was insufficient for economic use.

Since some of his new isolates form more nodules with the rj1 plants than the rhizobia strains previously available, Devine is encouraged. He is continuing to search for rhizobia that will nodulate the rj1 plants and outperform other soybean-rhizobia combinations.

This could result in a soybean-Rhizobium relationship that produces more nitrogen for plant vigor and increased productivity.

USDA to increase poultry, egg fees

LANCASTER — Effective January 25, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase the fees charged to industry for voluntary grading of egg products, eggs, poultry and rabbits to reflect higher costs of the grading service.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman said the new fee schedule raises rates for voluntary grading of eggs, poultry and rabbits on a non-resident basis from \$14.72 to \$16.52 an hour. Rates charged to plants with resident graders to cover the grader's salary and fringe benefit costs have also been increased from \$8.34 to \$11.68 an hour.

"Fees for the voluntary services have not been increased since 1977, and for the mandatory services since 1978, despite steadily

increasing operating costs of the program," said Foreman.

Legislation requires fees be collected from the industry requesting voluntary or mandatory service. USDA sets grade standards and provides official grading and inspection for many food products.

USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service also will increase overtime and holiday inspection fees charged to industry for mandatory inspection of egg products, Foreman said.

Legislation provides fees for holiday and overtime work required for the mandatory egg products inspection service meet the cost of this extra service. The new fees for this service have been raised from \$12 to \$16.28 and \$13.08, respectively. USDA will continue to pay for the inspectors' regular working hours on mandatory inspection.

The new schedule of fees appears in January 2 Federal Register, available in most local libraries.

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