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Lancaster Farming

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Farm Equipment Expo to open Thursday

HARRISBURG — For the third consecutive year, the Pennsylvania Farm Equipment Exposition, dubbed 'Little Farm Show' by many, will be opening its doors to the public and exhibitors this Thursday.

During the past three years, the Expo has grown and adopted new ideas for drawing a crowd. Its first year

found horse-pulling contests and a used farm machinery sale as highlights. Last year, tractor pulls were a successful addition to the Expo, along with a swine and draft horse show and sale and a goat exhibit.

The 1981 Expo still has the horse pulling contests, and tractor pulls will be roaring again in the large arena. The

draft horses, goats and swine will be heard in the barns — each having their own show, a first for the milking goats in the state. And 82 head of Angus cattle will be sold Thursday evening, sponsored by the Pa. Angus Assoc.

Farmers hoping to catch a glimpse of some new prospects in the machinery field and in supplies will get a chance to scan over 170 commercial exhibits this year, featuring local dealers.

All-in-all, the Expo will offer farmers and interested spectators an end-of-winter weekend filled with fun, excitement, and new ideas. So take a break from the barn (Turn to Page A28)

We welcome new DHIA's

LITITZ — LANCASTER FARMING is pleased to welcome all of the members of the Adams County Dairy Herd Improvement Association as new subscribers to the paper.

In addition, we are printing an

expanded schedule of DHIA reports from across Pennsylvania. Readers will see DHIA reports from Bedford, Centre, Clarion, Erie, Potter and Somerset Counties in addition to all of the familiar DHIA reports we carry each month.

Holstein Assn. concludes sale, names hall of famers

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

WHITE HAVEN — An elite sale in the Grand Ballroom of the Pocono Hershey Resort highlighted the opening of the 69th Annual Pennsylvania Holstein Association which opened here Wednesday night.

In other activities, the Association honored outstanding members as well as conducting its usual business sessions.

Clark Bowen and Harry Firth were named to the Pennsylvania

Holstein Hall of Fame during the Friday morning awards breakfast. Bowen, who hails from Tioga County, has been a Holstein leader for many years and developed one of the first 300,000 pound cows.

Both his children and his grandchildren carry on the tradition of the family's well-known registered herd.

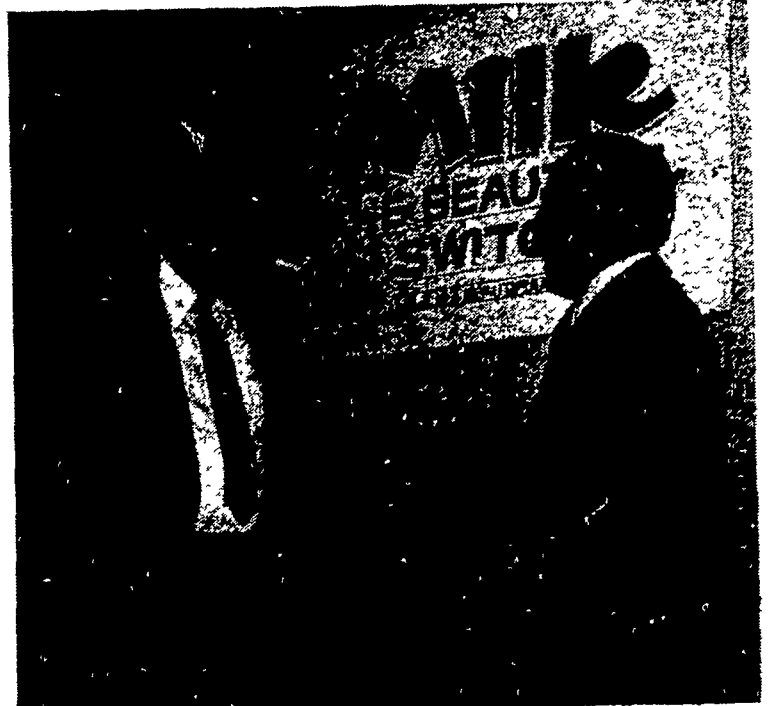
Firth, a Mercer Countian, has served on the state executive committee and as a state director.

Firth has trucked more Holsteins more miles over Penn-

sylvania's hilly highways than perhaps any other hauler. He especially was involved with getting youth animals to the numerous state cattle shows.

The loads of Pennsylvania's finest dairy animals shipped to the annual sale were honored by spirited bidding.

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Inter-State President Robert McSparran, a Lancaster County dairyman, presents retiring County Agent Max Smith with a \$100 gift certificate from the Lancaster County Inter-State Locals during the annual banquet held Thursday at Hostetter's Dining Hall, Mt. Joy. See story page A15.

Ag banker foresees gloom and doom

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — A dismal farm economic picture, which is not expected to improve and will spread from livestock and poultry operations to dairying, was painted by a leading Lancaster County agricultural banking loan officer on Thursday.

Speaking before a gathering of Allied Chemical dealers at the Treadway Inn, Robert Bucher, vice president of the Agri-Loan Department of Commonwealth National Bank, assessed the present farm economic situation as one of mostly "gloom and doom."

Bucher cited contrasting financial farm ledgers which are being reported for 1980.

"The top 50 percent of dairymen are still showing a net of \$800 to \$900 per cow before depreciation," Bucher said.

"On the other hand, poultry operations for the past year range from breaking even to losses of \$1.75 a bird. With the average area operation of 60,000 birds, you're looking at \$100,000 losses for the past year."

This comparison brought a comment from one of the dealers.

"But a lot of our people are not in the gifted world of the dairyman," he said.

Citing the expected cuts in federal milk subsidies, Bucher said there are problems on the horizon for the dairymen, too.

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Legislative roundup

Dairy supports, taxes will cost farmers money

BY CURT HARLER

HARRISBURG — Both Washington and Harrisburg were jumping this week with farm-related activities.

In the nation's capital, hearings were held Wednesday before the Senate Subcommittee on Agricultural Production, Marketing and Stabilization of Prices on President Ronald Reagan's proposals to slash the milk price support program.

Basically, Reagan's proposal will eliminate entirely the scheduled April support increase.

Net result will be to cut the program by about two-thirds, from roughly \$1.7 billion to something in

the area of \$600 million in the coming year.

The move should save consumers about 15 cents per gallon on purchases of fresh milk.

With few exceptions, the dairy industry is going along with the cuts.

The National Milk Producers' Federation in Washington said it can not disagree with the Reagan proposal. At the Wednesday hearing, NMPF did not testify in opposition to the plan, although that is not the same as approving it.

Under current law, dairy parity is to be set at 75 to 90 percent of parity. A change four years ago

jumped the floor to 80 percent of parity.

NMPF is asking a flexible parity schedule based on milk prices and supplies.

This position is similar to Farm Bureau's, although NMPF wants to base its parity level on a projection of production, anticipating the situation, while Farm Bureau is using a sliding percentage program to be based on current conditions.

Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative Economist Paul Hand said he supports the NMPF position although it will cost farmers income.

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Dairy reports

Franklin Holstein directors, A17; Golden Guernsey's 50th, A18; Lancaster dairy day, A22; York dairy day, C29; Lancaster DHIA, E2; Potter DHIA, E4; Chester DHIA, E7; York DHIA, E9; Upper Susquehanna DHIA, E14; Somerset DHIA, E17; Montgomery DHIA, E18.

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Women and youth

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