

Lancaster Farmer's Assn. tells 'ag story'

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
LANCASTER — A couple of months ago Earl Newcomer, president of the Lancaster County Farmer's Association, went to a benefit auction for the Holtwood Fire Fighting Crew.

One of the items coming up for bid was a large, three-dimensional, hand-crafted display of a Pennsylvania Dutch Farm.

"I remember the bidding opened at \$5," Newcomer recalled.

"And, I got it at \$9."

After getting the large display home, the Newcomers were faced with the age-old problem that has faced auction-goers since the first sale was ever held.

What do I now do with my latest find?

Well, this week the Pennsylvania Dutch Farm display was just one of many items on exhibit at Park City as the Lancaster County Farmer's Association brought the farm to the shopping mall.

"The display was built by an advertising company and donated to the auction," Newcomer said.

"I couldn't guess what it might cost to attempt to duplicate it today."

The farm scene is complete with house, barn, windmill, lane, animals and some equipment.

"It even had a hand-made horse and buggy, but we were afraid to let that on it at a public display," Newcomer said.

The display even has a stream built into it, but the motor wasn't hooked up to pump the water for this week's exhibit. It's even electrified.

The farm scene is being utilized this week by the Association to announce the Farm-City farm tours which will be held next month.

The display is also symbolic of the many cooperative efforts which went into the week-long ag PR effort which ends today at Park City.

Not all of these efforts can be cited here. But others range from the transport of the highly creative "pumpkin people" from the Leroy Pfautz Farm Market, north of Ephrata, to Park City, to the 140-pound orange behemoth that was brought by Dan Fitzkee.

And there are machinery displays, quilting, various craft activities, poultry and dairy

livestock, milking and milk drinking contests, eggs hatching and much more.

And, as Charles Rohrer, association vice-president, explained at the opening ceremonies Monday night:

"We must talk about ourselves and tell our story to non-farm people. If we don't do it, no one will."

And the Lancaster County Farmer's Association is doing it very well.

For in the audience at Monday's opening were a lot of local officials and state legislators, particularly those on the House Ag Committee.

And tribute was paid to two
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Earl Newcomer and his wife, Ruth, bought this Pennsylvania Dutch Farm display at an auction for \$9.00. It's one of many features at Lancaster Farmer's Association week-long ag PR event at Park City.



Charlene Rohrer, of Chester County, Pa. Dairy Princess, pauses with recently born calf, which is among livestock in Park City.



Commodity queens, examining quilt to be auctioned off tonight, include, from the left, Michelle Vogt, Pa. Flying Farmers; Becky Fisher, Pa. Honey Queen; Gail Graybill, Pa. Potato Queen; Lavon Fuhrman, Lancaster County Poultry Queen; Charlene Rohrer, Pa. Dairy Princess; and Joyce Markey, York County Apple Queen.



Chet Heim, deputy ag secretary, toasts opening of ag event in Park City with a glass of milk.



Present for ribbon cutting ceremonies are, from the left, Bob Mangel, marketing manager for Park City Associates; Chet Heim, deputy state ag secretary; Jay Irwin, Lancaster County Extension director; and Charles Rohrer, vice president of Lancaster County Farmer's Association.