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'82 Farm Show, it's "growing better"



'Ag-stravaganza' welcomes half-million

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
HARRISBURG — The giant is stirring.

For 66 years it has beckoned millions of Pennsylvania farmers and hundreds of agricultural organizations. Tomorrow, the masses will officially answer its call.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show — the year 1917 marked its humble beginnings as a small exhibition of fruits and grains developed from the annual meetings of farm organizations.

Its first home was in a downtown Harrisburg farm machinery dealership. Billed as the Pennsylvania Corn, Fruit, Vegetable, Dairy Products and Wool Show, the original three-day Farm Show attracted 5,000 farm and city people and welcomed exhibitors with \$735 in premiums.

"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. That objective has held true for 66 years," noted Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell.

For 14 years the benevolent giant grew in size until its birthplace

could no longer contain its visitors' enthusiasm and participation.

In 1931, the Pennsylvania Farm Show moved to its present Cameron Street location and is now the largest free indoor agricultural exposition under one roof in the United States.

More than 500,000 visitors are expected to walk through the giant 14-acre expanse this year when Governor Thornburgh officially opens the doors to the public on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. The theme of the six-day "ag-stravaganza," is, Pennsylvania Agriculture — We're Growing Better and recognizes the "incredible record of production and contributions to the economy by Pennsylvania farm families," said Hallowell.

The Secretary noted that about 900,000 Pennsylvanians are employed in agriculture-related jobs, with annual sales of more than \$25 billion.

"Pennsylvania is the agricultural leader in the northeast," said Hallowell. "Last year, for the first time, Pennsylvania's farmers topped the \$3 billion mark in gross farm receipts."

"We are proud to dedicate the

Lancaster Co.'s John Henkel wins Master Farmer award

STRASBURG — Hundreds of acres of cropland are not necessarily the prime ingredients that make up a successful farming operation.

In fact, Lancaster County's John Henkel, of Rt. 1, Strasburg, on just 30 acres of land, has molded together a highly efficient and profitable swine breeding enterprise.

Although the swine breeding herd is not considered especially large, 125 mature sows and 144 gilts, Henkel markets about two-thirds of his weaning pigs as research animals for pharmaceutical firms at premium prices.

For his business expertise and

management efficiency, the swine producer has been named a Master Farmer for 1981. He will receive the coveted award January 12 during ceremonies in Harrisburg.

Henkel also will be inducted into the Pennsylvania Master Farmers' Association whose membership consists of all former award winners. The program was established in 1927.

Henkel does not employ a lot of "spit and polish" around the farm. Remodeled chicken houses have served as low-cost but fully adequate housing for all phases of the operation since the farm was originally purchased in 1960.

"Since we maintain a closed

herd of purebred Yorkshire hogs, we keep tight security around the farm to guard against the spread of disease," the Master Farmer points out. "Invited visitors must don clean boots and coveralls to get beyond the security perimeter."

He emphasizes that he needs

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Mid-Atlantic no-till forum draws 1400

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
TIMONIUM, Md. — More than 1400 farmers packed the large Exhibition Hall at Timonium Fairgrounds, Thursday, as

agronomists, Extension agents and other farmers detailed innovations and forecast the future of no-till agriculture.

The theme for the eighth annual

Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference was "Crop Rotation with No-Till."

Conference coordinators have found that experience is showing a need to move away from the corn monoculture. Rotating crops have always been effective in breaking up cycles of disease, insects and weeds. With the advent of the no-till drills, rotation is now possible without interrupting the no-tillage concept.

One half of the large exhibition hall was filled with the latest no-till machinery and crop hybrid displays.

Farmers from the mid-atlantic region — Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and West Virginia — listened as Lyle Bauer, president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, presented the grim truth about soil erosion in the United States.

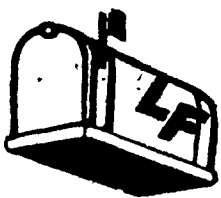
Bauer explained that four to six billion tons of topsoil are lost each year.

"By the year 2030, we will have lost 25 to 62 million acres," Bauer reported. He estimated the loss would be equivalent to virtually all of the 1980 exportable surplus of grain.

He stressed the need for effective conservation programs

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Inside This Week's...



For your personal copy of the Farm Show schedule, turn to Section D; and while leafing through the pages, look for several Show features on pages A20, A21, B10, B26, B28, E36, E30, E27.

Meet our Master Farmers' wives, the driving force behind these title-winning farmers, on page B16.

Marketing mysteries are examined at the Lancaster Tobacco Show on A18.

Columns

Editorials, A10; Now is the time, A10; Ladies, have you heard?, B14; Ida's Notebook, B23; Joyce Bupp's column, B37; Farming's Futures, E8; Brockett's Ag Advice, E12; Chicken Coop News, E19.

Home and Youth

Homestead Notes, B2; Home on the Range, B6; 4-H news, B4; Farm Women Societies, B5; Vegetable soup at Farm Show, B26; Kid's Korner, B10; Female Keystone winners, B28; Ashcombe Greenhouses, E2; Knouse Foods apples, E10.



Lyle Bauer, president of the National Association of Conservation Districts addresses the problem of soil erosion before the eighth annual Mid-Atlantic No-Till conference on Thursday. Bauer estimates that more than four billion tons of topsoil are lost each year.