

Hallowell cites Farm Show achievements

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell last week told the State Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee that the Farm Show Commission, the Farm Show and the Farm Show complex all provide major contributions to the state's society and economy.

Testifying at the Farm Show Commission's "sunset" hearing, Hallowell emphasized the Farm Show Commission's role in education, marketing and consumer awareness, and projected improvements planned for the 53 year old complex.

"Much of the public attention centers on the annual Farm Show, and the hundreds of thousands of visitors who attend each year. But the 72 other agricultural events, from the biweekly farmers' market to major international shows also provide a broad range of public service," he said.

"The Farm Show Complex is the most visited site in the city of Harrisburg," Hallowell said. "The series of events held at the complex, through the 460 event-days each year, yield a greatly varied entertainment schedule for the central Pennsylvania community and beyond. In fact, the Farm Show was identified as one of the TOP 100 EVENTS in North America by the American Bus Association."

Hallowell noted that in five

years, 1977-1982, use of the complex had increased by 123 percent, from 206 show days to 460. "This not only advances the interests of the shows and exhibitions, but the industries involved and provides a significant boost to the central Pennsylvania economy," he said. "In addition, the events held at the Farm Show complex generate tax dollars for the City of Harrisburg, the state and federal governments."

Hallowell said that the state's capital budget, signed by Governor Thornburgh on May 18, provides \$3,872,000 for design and construction of a new exhibition hall for the Farm Show Complex. "This new hall will help keep the complex competitive with exposition centers in other East Coast cities," he said.

"The new building will have 72,000 square feet of floor space for exhibitions, livestock washroom, storage areas and office space. It will allow us to pick up the exhibition space lost when fire corridors were built into the main hall several years ago," he said.

Hallowell said that Governor Thornburgh's capital budget for next year includes funding of \$1,430,000 to replace the floor in the main exhibition building with a new reinforced concrete floor with plastic barriers and a non-skid surface.

The Secretary said a long range

plan for improvements has been initiated, with improvements in progress including handicap parking facilities, installation of a zoned hot water heating system, air conditioning of offices, and installation of pedestrian bridges.

Future improvements planned for the complex include expansion and improved accessibility for parking, installation of new

heating and lighting systems in the Large Arena, installation of storm windows, insulation and air conditioning, and a variety of cosmetic repairs to the building.

"Major improvements have already been made at the complex, and we will continue our emphasis on such improvements to maintain and expand the Farm Show complex' ability to serve as host

for agriculture and trade shows, expositions and conventions," Hallowell said.

"We are proud of the services provided by the Farm Show Commission, staff and the complex, and of the essential role they play in advancing the interests of agriculture and other state industries," Hallowell said.

Ag officials to meet

REHOBOTH, Del. — The top agricultural leaders from the Northeast will be meeting in Rehoboth Beach in mid-June to discuss items ranging from the 1985 Farm Bill to farmland preservation.

Delaware Agriculture Secretary Donald J. Lynch, current president of the Northeastern Association of State Department's of Agriculture (NEASDA), is hosting the Secretaries and Commissioners of Agriculture from 9 other Northeastern States including Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Jersey and Maine.

Officials from the United States Department of Agriculture and key leaders from the House Agriculture Committee are also planning to attend the 4-day NEASDA Conference June 10-13 at the Henlopen Hotel.

Items on the agenda include a symposium on the United State's agricultural policy which will come in the form of the 1985 Farm Bill, and a status report on the sensitive issue of farmland protection in the Northeast.

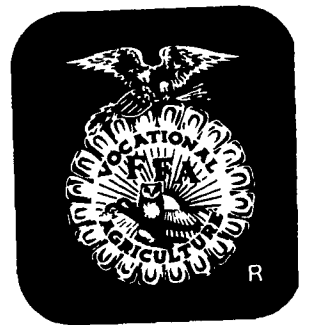
"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to host the Secretaries and Commissioners here in Delaware and we plan to roll out agriculture's red carpet for them", said Secretary Lynch.

"In addition to the various meetings, we've also planned tours of the shore area and other sites of interest. Each participant will leave the meeting with a better grasp of what Delaware agriculture is all about.

Each Secretary and Commissioner will also leave with a "Basketful of Delaware" thanks to donations from area

agribusinesses.

The NEASDA meeting is held annually in the home state of the groups president. Lynch was elected to that post last summer in Vermont. He will be stepping down in September.



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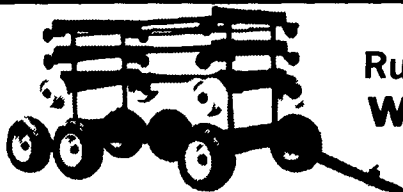


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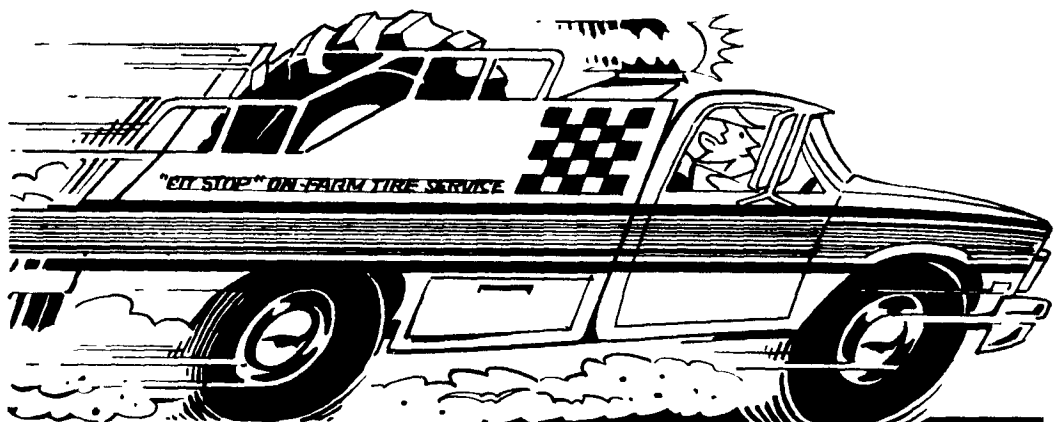
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