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Lancaster Farming

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Ag Progress draws large throngs of visitors



Depending upon your age, Ag Progress is a chance to see what's new, or a chance to dream. For Jason Innerst of Ickesburg it's time to get the feel behind the wheel. After all, Pop, I'll be three soon.



BY JACK HUBLEY

ROCK SPRINGS — What's bigger than a county fair and smaller than a mountain? Ag Progress, of course.

Not much smaller, though. With more than 300 commercial exhibitors, the three-day agricultural extravaganza turns Rock Springs' 160-acre Agricultural Research Center into an instant ag city each August. Just add farmers and stir.

And, indeed, plenty of people were stirring, with 10,000 cars streaming into the parking area on Tuesday and attendance topping out at an estimated 82,000 by Thursday afternoon.

"This was probably our best turnout ever," said Sam Smith, Dean of the College of Agriculture, who added that the turnout seemed to be slightly higher than last year when a record 80,000 people attended.

Once again this year, the opening morning found Mother Nature smiling on the Happy Valley, with cool temperatures and blue bird skies that remained through

Wednesday. Rain arrived on Wednesday night, only to stop, as if on cue, in time for Thursday's wrap-up.

Always a popular activity were the bus tours aimed at showcasing Penn State's commitment to agricultural research. A conservation tour highlighting farming practices aimed at the proper management of soil, water, woodlands and wildlife was also provided.

Field demonstrations began during the morning with primary tillage, and continued through the afternoon with activities including corn chopping, silage bagging, conservation planting and hay mowing, raking and baling. Thursday's demonstrations were cancelled, however, due to Wednesday night's rain.

Plenty of 4-H activities were scheduled in the Youth Activities tent, and a 4-H Safe Tractor Driving Contest got underway on Thursday. Taking first place in this event was Union County's Brian Shively, with Dave Hut-

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Singing Brook dominates Central Show

BY BETSY STITT
Staff Correspondent

HUNTINGDON — Starting with the first championship rosette and continuing through the final banner to be awarded, entries of the Singing Brook Farms herd of the Obie Snider family, Imler, dominated the winner's circle last Saturday at the Central Championship Holstein Show.

Traditional quality of entries was evident at the show, according to chairman John Foster, even though the number of entries dropped from previous years.

The Obie Snider family with their Singing Brook herd produced

a great deal of that quality; starting off with the Grand Champion Bull. Singing Brook Valiant Dictator, a senior calf received the first champion trophy of the night.

Reserve Grand honors went to Russell H. Miller with RHMC Israel, a Columbus son and also a senior calf.

No particular name dominated the first place slot through the heifer classes. In the end, Allenor Holstein Farms of Bedford walked away with the Junior Champion honors with Allenor Reliance Patty, an intermediate calf.

Following closely behind to

receive Reserve Jr. Champion was Branstetter Valiant Pete Katie, a senior calf owned by Terry Branstetter of Tyrone.

The Singing Brook herd again showed their quality in the cow classes and came away with the Grand and Reserve Grand Champions.

The Grand Champion honor went to Singing Brook Pete Audie, a stylish four-year-old who is not a newcomer to the winner's circle. Judge Jake Ernig of Shippensburg had no trouble putting her there again.

Reserve Grand went to Singing
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Singing Brook Farms champions include, from the left, Obie Snider, with both Premier banners; Bruce Snider, with Grand Champion bull; Mark Fisher; Jim Garman, with Grand Champion; and John Fisher, with top aged cow.



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