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# Lancaster Farming

VOL. 30 No. 10

Six Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 12, 1985

\$7.50 per Year

## Farm Show opens Sunday



Exhibiting together at the Farm Show will be the Musser family from Elizabethtown: Doug (standing left) and Greg, with their steers, and Diane (left) and Tricia with their Suffolk market lambs. See story on page A21.



It's showing practice for Bridgette Boyer of York County and her Sexation heifer, Icicle. See story on page E22.

### Farm Show highlights in today's issue

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HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's 69th annual Farm Show will open Sunday in Harrisburg, offering half a million spectators five days of contests, exhibits and foods that salute the outstanding achievements of farm families throughout the Commonwealth.

This yearly agricultural promotion is now the largest agricultural exposition under roof in the United States, covering a total of 11 acres. Farmers, agricultural and agribusiness leaders and a wide range of other visitors from at least 20 states, Canada and several foreign nations are expected to be among patrons at this year's event, which runs Sunday through Friday in the Farm Show Complex at Harrisburg.

The theme of this year's show, "Agriculture: The Pride of Pennsylvania," emphasizes the 59,000 farm families whose contributions make agriculture the top industry in the state. With their spirits buoyed by an exceptional growing season in 1984, after the double devastation of last year's drought and avian influenza epidemic in the poultry industry, this year's Farm Show already carries an upbeat note of excitement.

"There's a great deal of hustling activity," Bob Bunting from the state Agriculture Department public information office said this week. It seems to indicate "an upbeat attitude" compared to the less optimistic atmosphere of last year's show, he said. "We have a full house of commercial exhibits and our waiting list is as long as it has ever been."

Bunting said some commercial firms have been on the waiting list as long as five years. "We have a good track record of exhibitors in terms of longevity over shows," he said.

About 20 new exhibitors were brought in last year on one-year contracts when the poultry exhibits were dropped because of avian flu, but with poultry once more on the roster, these exhibitors had to be returned to the waiting list, Farm Show Director Harold Mann added.

#### Exhibits Worth \$25 Million

Commercial and competitive exhibits on display throughout the show are valued at about \$25 million. The livestock show, considered the largest state show in the Northeast, will include

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Laura and Chad Folker of New Holland work together on their 4-H swine projects. They will be at the Farm Show preparing their pigs for the 4-H show and sale. See story on page A20.