

# PHA Opens Farm Addition

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Henry S. Lapp construction firm, whose building crews put in long hours to finish in time to meet the deadline of assembling the initial six plane loads of cattle headed for Brazilian buyers.

Also on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new facility were PHA treasurer Walter Wurster, executive committee member Jay Landis, state sales chairman Laszlo Moses, builder Henry Lapp, federal veterinarian Dr. Chuck Rossow, as well as PHA's executive secretary

Bill Nichol, membership and services director Ken Paney, sales director Jeff Harding and farm manager Howard Weiss.

Even as the last gate was being installed, the first heifer went through the walkway and into one of the four separate holding areas opening off the spawling pole barn. She was the first of nearly 1,000 Pennsylvania registered Holsteins destined for Brazil in a history-making \$2 million export shipment by PHA from the Middletown facility.

Oblivious to her honor as number

one into the new barn was Rothrock Banner Kim, a March heifer bred by Rothrock Golden Holsteins, Kempton.

Work began on the export facility addition in September, "35 sleepless nights ago" quipped executive secretary Bill Nichol, chucking over the staff's overseeing the details of both barn-building and paperwork for the large heifer shipment.

"But without our members to supply the cattle, this facility, this

business, would not be possible," Nichol added, praising the nearly 6,000 PHA members from across the state.

In addition to handling sales for the membership, the Middletown farm is an official federal quarantine facility, and used by a variety of exporters of livestock. The farm was initially purchased in 1975, and has handled cattle destined for at least 45 countries

around the world.

The first of the Boeing 707s with a 100 head of black and white cargo for Brazil is expected to lift off the runway at Harrisburg International within days, pending final clearance of all health requirement documents. One refueling stop will break the 14-hour flight.

Because of noise abatement regulations governing the Harrisburg air space, only certain jets equipped with noise reduction "Hush Kits" are allowable. PHA had to arrange to bring from use in Europe one of the two cargo planes contracted for the Brazilian shipments.

Although the Harrisburg International Airport is just two miles from the PHA barns, most export flights in recent years have departed from Kennedy Airport in New York, adding an additional four hours of trucking to the total travel time. Cattle shipments generally go on the giant Boeing 747s, planes too large and heavy when loaded for safe takeoff from Harrisburg's runway. Eventual lengthening of the Harrisburg International's runway, reportedly under construction by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, would facilitate additional export shipments in the future by PHA from Harrisburg.



PHA president Art Baxter, left, and farm manager Howard Weiss, escorted the first heifer into the new export facility. Wearing the No. 1 eartag for the shipment to Brazil was Rothrock Banner Kim, from Rothrock Golden Holsteins, Kempton.

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