

Governor Thornburgh Opens State Show With Walk Through Exhibits, Speech In Large Arena

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HARRISBURG — The 71st Annual Pennsylvania State Farm Show received its grand opening here Sunday when Governor Richard Thornburgh and Mrs. Thornburgh entered the Farm Show complex from McClay Street to the microphones, lights and cameras of the host of media representatives waiting inside. Agriculture Secretary Richard Grubb and Mrs. Grubb had escorted the state's first couple through some of the isles of the main exhibition building into the sheep, hog and dairy barns and onto a wagon drawn by two flashy black work horses. The team of horses pulled the celebrities into the large arena to the cheers and applause of a warm crowd gathered to witness opening ceremonies and the presentation of farm products to the governor by queens, princesses and product representatives of Pennsylvania agriculture.

Thornburgh told the state farm crowd that he shares with our farmers, farm leaders and the entire agribusiness community a feeling of pride in the growing success and continuing importance of agriculture in our Pennsylvania-the state with the nation's largest rural population.

"It has been an eight-year commitment of this administration to create an environment conducive to the growth of this vitally important industry and to the preservation of the values implicit in our rural communities," Thornburgh said.

"The cash return last year to our farmers on \$4 billion in crop and animal production ranks Pennsylvania 17th in the nation in agricultural receipts, up from the 21st position in 1980, and makes us the predominant agricultural state

in the Northeast. Agricultural employment is up 30 percent in Pennsylvania since 1980. Indeed, one in five Pennsylvanians today owes a job to agriculture.

"The preservation of family farms and farmland resources has been a priority policy of this administration. Will Rogers once observed that the American farmer is the only segment of our economy who 'buys at retail, sells at wholesale and pays the freight in both directions.'" These are hurdles that no other industry has had to overcome."

"Our administration has sought to even the odds and give the family farmer a fighting chance not only to survive but to prosper, through unprecedented promotion and marketing assistance, economic development programs, animal health improvement efforts and creation of a farmland preservation division in the Department of Agriculture.

"It is fitting that the theme of this year's farm show is 'Pennsylvania Agriculture-Progress Through Technology,' because it highlights the partnership between the state's number one industry and the technological revolution that is hard upon us."

"While some still insist on viewing the farm in terms of the stereotypes of the past, those who make their livelihood from agriculture realize that modern farming has itself undergone a whole series of technological advances. Livestock are now being graded with ultrasonic equipment which improves both breeding and marketing; feed is both determined and dispersed by computer; automatic milking parlors not only handle the milking, but also compile detailed information on each cow's performance and production."



The state's first couple greet a cow.



In the driver's seat.



Jan Carson (left) and Richard Denison greet the governor and wife in the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association booth.



Governor and Mrs. Thornburgh receive a cheesecake at the Pennsylvania State Grange booth. The cheesecake is on the list of products available through the State Grange Exchange Food Buying Service.



A carriage ride around the arena.