



Three-year-old Andrew Grove of York was prepared for stiff tractor pulling competition. He wore his John Deere cap, bib overalls and work boots so he could look like a real farmer, just like his grandpa Calvin Orwick of York.

Family Day Draws Record Crowd

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — An enthusiastic crowd cheered as bucking steers threw their riders to the ground and cowgirls competed during barrel races at the Farm Show on Family Day.

During the 10 rodeo events, it was standing room only in the large arena that seats 9,000.

Chris Herr, in charge of the family day activities observed, "People are catching on to family day and anticipate a day of fun on the opening day of Farm Show."

Many savor the memory of the rodeo, garden tractor olympic and kiddie tractor pull held during family day activities.

To pull off such a successful event took a lot of people, Herr said. He mainly comes up with the ideas, puts someone in charge and coordinates the events.

Last year was the first for Farm Show Family Day. Herr said, "I heard they were going to turn off the arena's lights after the governor's speech and I thought that was a crime. I asked if I could plan some activities as a test to see how things went."

Things went well. So well, that more events were added this year.

Herr said he was fortunate to live in a family that showed sheep all over the country. Herr is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Herr of Nix Besser Farm in Narvon. Their showing exposed him to the big draws of fairs in the West and Mid West.

"Rodeos especially are big draws," Herr noted. He invited the top three high school competitors for the Sunday event.

The barnyard petting zoo was back by popular demand. Herr said, "It's the most asked about event at the Farm Show. We couldn't get away without doing it again. Farm people might think the petting zoo isn't too important but it gives many kids their first opportunity to meet face to face with animals."

Jan Marchezak of Washington County took charge of the barnyard zoo where 125 farm animals participated.

David Nolt of Paradise in Lancaster County contacted sponsors and obtained prizes for the kiddie tractor pull. Contestants from three

to eight pedalled toy tractors with a weighted sled attached to win the race.

Celebrities and politicians participated in an obstacle course in the garden tractor olympics. Outfitted in bibbed overalls and hats, contestants steered a garden tractor through a course of everyday farm activities. They milked a goat, penned in the ducks, backed a tractor into the barn and loaded manure on a wagon.

"These activities offer more appreciation for agriculture," Herr said. "It's a tremendous educational tool for informing the public."

Herr is pleased that 80,000 people flocked to the Farm Show. He said, "I was always taught that if I do something, I should do it 100 percent or not at all."

But Herr is quick to add that success would not have been possible without the support of the Deputy



Chris Herr

Secretary and Chuck Kline, Farm Show director.

Herr has the distinction of attending every Pennsylvania Farm Show since his birth 28 years ago. He said, "I've always had a personal interest in Farm Show and in agriculture and I'm glad to help inform the public of the importance of agriculture."



"Can we take these guys home?" The daughters of John and Jewel Campbell, Rachael, 8; and Rebekah, 5, from Quarryville believe sheep could be delightful pets.

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