

## Animal Housing Expo At Lebanon Fairgrounds

**NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon County)** — An animal housing exposition similar in purpose and design to the annual Penn State University Ag Progress Days is scheduled for July 14 and 15, according to a multi-county agricultural engineer.

Patrick Richie, multi-county engineer said that he and Dan McFarland, also a multi-county engineer, are hosting the event.

According to Richie, he and McFarland saw a need for a housing facility exposition in the south central Pennsylvania area and with the opening of the Lebanon convention center, they now have the facility and don't have to put up with city congestion.

The exposition is to be the first of many, said Richie.

"Basically, we wanted to give farmers a show similar to Ag Progress days that was animal housing related. Since we work this area, we decided to have it down in south eastern Pennsylvania. That's also where a large percentage of our agriculture is anyway," Richie said.

The show is still in the organizing stage and commercial exhibitors are still being accepted. Those interested should call Richie at (215) 378-1327.

Most exhibitors are to set up in the new building at the Lebanon Fairgrounds, he said.

"Basically, it's going to be all leading edge, state-of-the-art buildings," he said. But he added that just about any or all animal housing designs and plans will be available through exhibitors or non-commercially connected speakers.

Richie said that the speakers, who still have to be confirmed before announcing, will be the same both days. The speakers are to be nationally recognized experts.

The emphasis of the designs will be mostly dairy, swine and poultry facilities, Richie said, although some builders will have available plans and information on housing for other species.

Modeled after Ag Progress Days, the annual PSU-sponsored August expo held at Rock Spring,

near State College, the Lebanon County Animal Housing Expo is to similarly be designed for the family and feature food booths, 4-H and FFA exhibits, booths from ASCS, SCS, FmHA, conservation districts, etc.

The need for the expo is strong, Richie said, noting that the average

facility in the southeast has last been updated at least 20 years ago.

"The buildings have changed a good bit and we learned a lot more about ventilation since the seventies," he said, "and we learned more about animal comfort."

Experts on financial planning and farm management are also

expected to be available.

Admission is \$2 to cover parking and offset the cost of renting the building. Complimentary tickets are to be available through participating exhibitors. An exhibitors list is not yet completed, but will be publicized when finished, Richie said.

## Bradford County Sets Tractor Program

**TOWANDA (Bradford Co.)** — Farmers who expect to hire anyone under 16 years of age to work on a farm should be aware of the child labor requirements in agriculture under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Under child labor provisions of the Act, it is unlawful for an employer to hire anyone under 16 years of age to operate a tractor of more than 20 P.T.O. horsepower or to connect or disconnect an implement or any of its parts to or from such a tractor.

Also illegal according to the regulation would be the operating or assisting to operate most tractor-powered or self-powered equipment. Some livestock, lumbering, storage, and pesticide work is classified hazardous and illegal. Youth employed by parent or guardian are exempt.

Some may question the legal importance of the training, since there haven't been any court cases in Pennsylvania. However, if a serious accident involving an uncertified youth occurs, the resulting investigations could be very uncomfortable for the employer. Fines to an employer may be

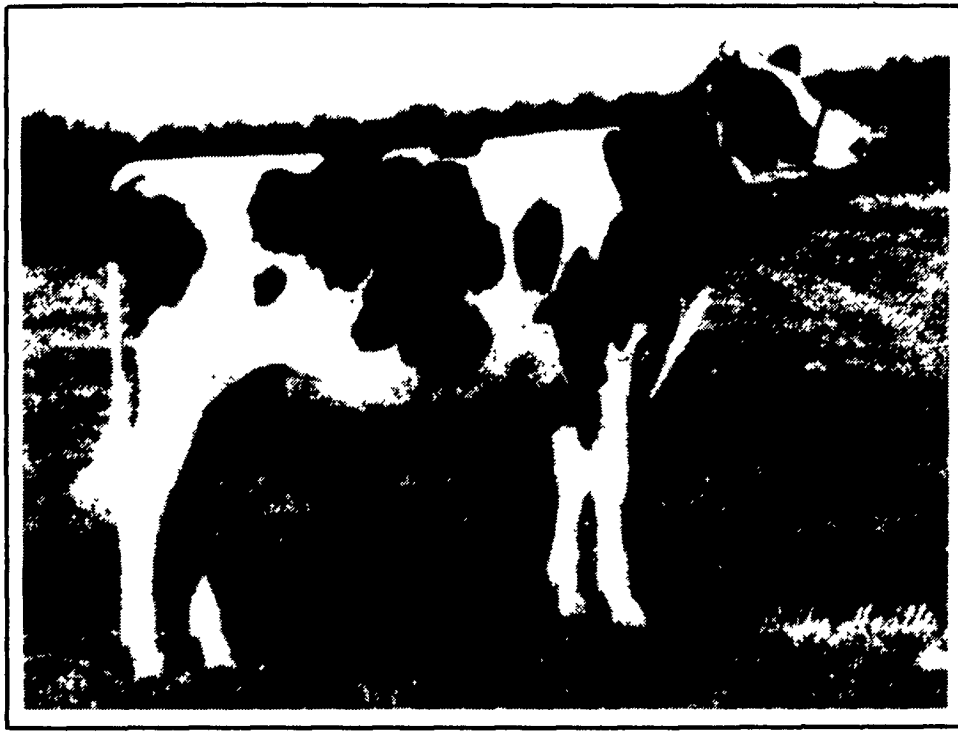
\$1,000 first offense and more than \$10,000 or up to six months imprisonment or both for a second offense.

Youth 14 and 15 years of age may be legally hired if they become certified through a tractor certification program. The certification indicates that the bearer has completed safety instructions and is not an operator's license.

A certification program will be available starting at 7 p.m. on May 4 at the extension office at 701 South Fourth Street, Towanda. If a youth 14 or 15 years of age plans to work on a farm this summer, or if a farmer plans to hire a person of this age, they may become certified by completing this course.

There will be four evening sessions starting at 7 p.m. on May 4, 6, 11, and 13 and a morning session starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 16 during which a driving test will be given. Youth 13 years of age will be accepted but will not receive their certification until their 14th birthday.

Contact the extension office for more details if needed (717) 265-2896.



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