

First Dorchester County Chicken Festival A Success

GEORGETOWN, DEL. — Hold it and they will come. That is exactly what happened the weekend of June 11 and 12 at Sailwinds Park in Cambridge, Md., the home of the 45th Delmarva Chicken Festival.

This was the first time the annual festival was held in Dorchester County and the organizers could not have been more pleased. The salute to Delmarva's largest agricultural enterprise was sponsored by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI), the nonprofit trade association working for the continued advancement of the more than \$1 billion a year local poultry industry and was hosted by the Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce.

Sailwinds Park, destined to become a major tourist attraction for Dorchester County, was converted to a giant marketplace for arts and crafts, a carnival grounds, a large eating area, and a contestant field for youngsters and adults. The attendance exceeded 40,000 people, far surpassing expectations.

Festival chairman Bud Hankins said, "We were ready for 25,000 people, but knew that Dorchester County could come through and 40,000 doesn't surprise me at all."

Hankins, who is executive director of the Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce said, "We did this to demonstrate that Dorchester County could put on a good chicken festival, and I look forward to this being the first in a number of great events for the county."

The festival featured several first-time events, including boat rides on the Choptank River and railroad excursions between Cambridge and the town of Hurlock. Each activity attracted about 700 passengers.

The focal point of the festival was chicken and there were plenty of ways to enjoy it. The giant fry pan, filled with Mazola corn oil, was kept busy for two days, with organizers having to resupply it Saturday afternoon because of brisk sales. Barbecued chicken was available, as were many other chicken entrees.

In the consumer program, "Simply Nutritious Chicken," there were presentations on how to prepare chicken in a variety of ways. Dr. Charles Wabeck with the University of Maryland showed how to cut up a chicken, while his son, Chef John Wabeck, presented a program called "Chicken-So Good, So Good For You." Cookbook author Linda Davis-O'Brien discussed the his-

tory of cooking contests and how many commonplace food items in the kitchen today are the result of contests — such things as sesame seeds, Reuben sandwiches, bundt cakes, and chicken nuggets. Her demonstrations, "As Good As Gold Chicken," included preparation of the winning entries from the 1988 and 1992 Delmarva chicken cooking contests.

DPI's newest recipe brochure was introduced at the festival and copies of "Simply Nutritious Chicken" are available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Simply Nutritious Chicken," c/o DPI, R.D. 6, Box 47, Georgetown, DE 19947-9622.

One popular attraction was the poultry industry exhibit organized and staffed by extension special-

ists at the universities of Delaware and Maryland. The chick-hatching area and the chick-petting area proved popular with youngsters, many of whom had never before seen a live bird. An educational program entitled "Protecting Delmarva's Environment...Water Quality" showed how the poultry industry is working with many individuals, organizations, and agencies to protect Delmarva's environment.

In chicken capers, poultry companies competed against each other in relay races, with trophies going to a processing team from Perdue Farms, Inc., Georgetown, Del. and a growout team from Perdue's Delmarva Broiler Division in Salisbury, Md. Individual contests were held in several categories for different age groups.

The winners in the chicken scratch were Matthew Harris of Lutz, Pa.; Eric Willey and Chris Brohawn of Cambridge, Md.; and Timothy Hill of Salisbury, Md. Davone Nelson and Elizabeth Slacum of Cambridge and Terry McCabe of Bridgeville, Del. were winners in the spoon race. The team of Travis Long of Cambridge and Kyle Preston of Wichita Falls, Texas captured one trophy for the egg toss while Perry Minor and Terry Neal, employees of Townsends, Inc. of Millsboro, Del., one of Delmarva's eight poultry companies, won the other egg toss trophy. The best imitators of crowing roosters and cackling hens were Island Styles of Goldsboro, Md. and Cheryl Grapham of Salisbury.

Wolff Commends Poultry Industry, Veterinarians

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Secretary of Agriculture Boyd E. Wolff this week commended the poultry industry and state and federal regulators for their work to contain an outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in Pennsylvania and other Northeastern states.

"Aggressive control efforts by poultry producers and by veterinarians and technicians from USDA and from the Department made it possible to control the spread of AI," Wolff said.

Wolff said the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation was particularly helpful during the AI outbreak.

"Leaders from the Poultry Federation spent many hours meeting with our veterinarians discussing the best ways to limit possible spread of AI without undue burden on the thousands of people who make their living in poultry production.

"As a result of that control over

the disease, we have been able to join with Maryland and New York in rescinding the Interstate Quarantine Order on movements of live poultry between Pennsylvania and other states, and we have been able to relax our General Quarantine through amendments that were posted on June 1st," Wolff said.

Under the amended General Quarantine Order, the pre-movement test requirement for transportation of poultry has been removed. The amendment also provides additional criteria for the release of non-infected flocks from quarantine.

The General Quarantine Order was adopted by the Department of Agriculture in January of 1993 after blood testing produced evidence that a Pennsylvania turkey flock had been exposed to Avian Influenza. H5N2 Avian Influenza virus was discovered in live bird

markets in Philadelphia and New York City.

Further evidence of Avian Influenza was found in a poultry flock exhibited at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. The General Quarantine temporarily suspended poultry exhibitions and

transportation of live birds to markets and auctions.

The Interstate Quarantine Order that has been rescinded was adopted in February of 1993 due to evidence that AI was circulating in Mid-Atlantic States.

PDCA Score Card Update

DALE OLVER

PSU Dairy & Animal Science STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA) is revising their Unified Dairy Cow Scorecard this year.

The new card is to mirror recently implemented breakdowns used by the Holstein Association. Included in the breakdown is a scoring formula based on 15 percent for frame, 20 percent for dairy character, 10 percent for capacity,

15 percent for legs and feet, and 40 percent of the score for the udder.

The new scorecards are expected to become available from PDCA through the Holstein Association in late summer or early fall.

But because the revised cards will not be ready for the first state 4-H contest in July, officials are to be instructed to use the old scorecard as their guideline.

Anyone training judging teams for summer contests should also use the old scorecard.

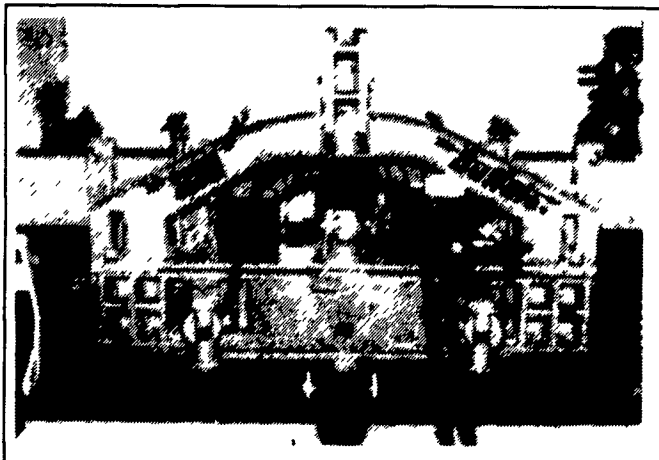


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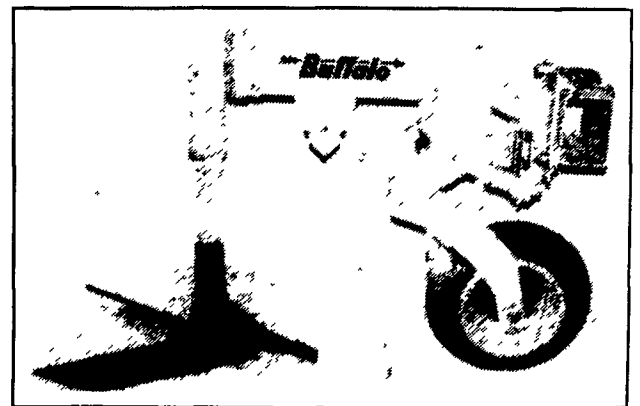
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