1994 Farm Products Show Bigger, Better, Busier

(Continued from Page A26)

William Lelick, spokesman with the state Department of Agriculture press office, said he is recommending to friends and family, "Plan on spending the entire day or at least an evening to take in the sights. And if you've been there before, make sure to get to the second floor of the new Northeast Building, where the Family Corner is located, because of a number of new demonstrations being held."

On Tuesday this week, Lelik said he was looking foward to visiting the Family Corner area to see displays of various nut trees by the Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association; and to see a 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, demonstration by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Canine Inspection Team.

The USDA canine inspection demonstrations are to show the abilities of dogs to detect materials subject to USDA customs restrictions.

Many of the pests which threaten the state's horticultural, silvicutural and other agricultural industries were either introduced through wayward experimentation, or brought into country in the luggage of someone indifferent or ignorant to the risk it poses to large industries.

Also scheduled for the area are a story teller and some instruction on making scarecrows.

There's also a new "Trade Concourse" in the vicinity, which Lelik said is new and consumer oriented. There are to be 12 display booths from a variety of Pennsylvania agribusinesses, including Furman Foods, Herr Foods, Hatfield Quality Meats, Cloister Spring Water Inc., Seneca-Kennet Foods, Daniel Weaver Co. Meats, Groffs Candies, Pennpak Gift Packs and selections of various foods.

Lelik's work duties require him to gather and disseminate news items to the press, and take photos of some of the events. He said the high school rodeo, which is scheduled for Saturday evening, is one of the more popular events for the general public.

The Pennsylvania FFA is also again holding its annual convention at the Farm Show. It starts Monday at 4 p.m.

Over the years, getting to the Farm Show has ranged in degree of difficulty, but this year travelers can expect a smoother trip.

Farm Show traffic has traditionally been congested. Those familiar with Cameron and Maclay streets during Farm Show week are also familiar with long lines and backed-up traffic.

Visitors should notice improvements to traffic flow due to lane expansions along Cameron Street, and a new traffic signal installed at the entrance to the Farm Show

public parking lot — the roadway was redesigned so that throughtraffic may continue, instead of being forced to wait for cars to turn against two-lane traffic.

As in previous years, shuttle buses are to be operating from the parking lot of the Harrisburg Area Capital Campus (HACC), located north of the Farm Show parking

And, despite a large number of traffic accidents this past summer along 181 near Harrisburg, those projects have all been finished for the season, with the exception of a stretch near Carlisle.

According to Edward Myslewicz, deputy press secretary for PennDOT, travel to and from Harrisburg, barring any weather-caused problems, can be expected to be

He said that Rt. 80 has no scheduled repair projects during the week. However, there is some ongoing construction along Routes 11-15, which courses along the west bank of the Susquehanna through Harrisburg and north to Sunbury.

According to Myslewicz, construction on Rt.s 11-15 is along the stretch near Liverpool, north of Harrisburg. He said the roadway is undergoing a road-widening project and may cause some delays.

But once at the complex, there is a full offering of shows, displays and demonstrations.

Of course, there is a limit set on most of animals shows, based on receipt of applications. As of Tuesday, the final count was still incomplete, but generally there are no stalls left empty.

And the new construction has allowed a little more room for both animals and visitors.

"The new building has been wonderful," Victoria Ritter said. "We can separate all the species. The West Building has swine and sheep, but that works very nicely."

Overall, the final tally of animals entered for this year's farm show, according to Charles Itle, manager, is 183 horses, 589 swine, 782 sheep, 514 beef, 520 dairy cattle, 237 dairy goats, 2,055 poultry entries, and 565 rabbits.

But people associate more than animal enterprise and displaying with the annual Farm Show.

The Food Court, located in the East Building, is always very popular and Ritter said the same 11 commodity booths will be there serving their various Pennsylvania foods, such as trout sandwiches, deep fried mushrooms, apple juices, milk shakes, baked potatoes and fries, vegetable soups, chicken-based and beef-based soups, fried mushrooms, etc.

According to Beverly Gruber, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Livestock Association, said that group is planning to serve 50,000 items during the week, including pork barbeque and roast beef sandwiches and lamb stew. Last year the group sold 41,800 units, she said.

Of course, the entire complex will be decorated with poinsettias and the Main Exhibit Hall and the livestock buildings all have agribusiness exhibitor booths.

The big, and heavy machinery items are in the Main Exhibit Hall, while services or small supplies are located at various locations throughout. There are also a number of other vendors who sell various goods during the show.

For those with legal questions, or have lost track of a child or companion, the state police are on board all week and are to have a trailer set up in the Main Exhibit Hall, midway against the north

On Tuesday, as a winter storm was dumping snow and freezing rain on the state, Ritter said the snow in the Farm Show parking lot was piling up and that crews were readying to clear the large lot.

Large piles of plowed snow should be still evident during Farm Show Week,

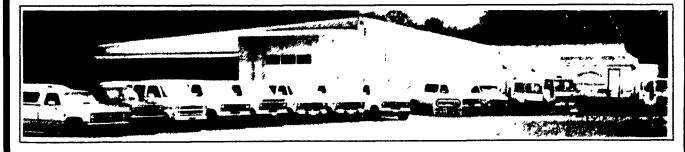
All throughout this issue of Lancaster Farming there are articles, illustrations and schedules about the 1994 Farm Show.

Also, those seeking help can find it at information booths located at various prominent places throughout the complex.

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