

Governor Casey Greet Farm Show Crowd

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and the hardstand around the Farm Show complex. Casey noted that the planned improvements are in addition to the \$10 million recently invested in the facility, including new heating, lighting, sound system and roof.

Gov. Casey said that because farm families and farm businesses are so important to Pennsylvania, the state has been pitching in to help Pennsylvania agriculture. "Our nationally-acclaimed Farmland Preservation Program, launched in 1989, now permanently protects 381 farms in 25 counties," he said. "Forty-eight thousand acres of prime farmland have been permanently saved for agricultural use. So far, the Commonwealth has put \$85 million into saving farm land.

The governor said the design of the new \$6.7 million animal health laboratory is well under way, and a contract for its construction across the street from the Farm Show complex is expected to be awarded this year.

"Investing in agriculture has

paid great dividends for the state," Casey said. "Exports from Pennsylvania have more than doubled since 1987; last year they increased by 15 percent. Our aggressive agricultural product marketing program has increased the value of agricultural exports by nearly 90 percent since 1987.

In an impromptu party on the governor's 62nd birthday, Boyd Wolff, state agricultural secretary, presented Casey with the blue ribbon chocolate cake with one candle in it. The crowd sang "Happy Birthday."

For Lt. Gov. Singel, the annual tour through the exhibition buildings and the food court became an opportunity for him and his son Jonathan, age nine, to enjoy the show. From milking cows to riding tractors and eating farm foods, the father/son team provided many photo opportunities for the press.

At the Farm Show banquet, Boyd Wolff, state ag secretary, presented the agribusiness awards. Three companies received recognition for their contributions toward the development and expan-



On the annual tour of the Farm Show are from left, Mrs. Boyd Wolff, Jennifer Grimes, state dairy princess, Boyd Wolff, state agriculture secretary, Jonathan, age nine, and Lt. Gov. Mark Singel.

sion of Pennsylvania agribusiness.

The Brown Adobe, Knauss Snack Food Company, and Moyer Packing Company received their awards from the State Department of Agriculture Saturday night.

Homemade salsa has grown into an export business for The Brown Adobe in Phoenixville, winner in the small company division. Since founding the Brown Adobe as a sideline business while in graduate school five years ago, Julienne Brown now sells a wide variety of great New Mexican foods in quaint earth tone packages to upscale food specialty stores.

An independent selection committee picked two winners in the large company division.

Although launching a new meat snack operation in the middle of a recession didn't make good business sense, Knauss Snack Food Company of Quakertown did just that in 1991. Using the integrity and good will of their fourth generation dried beef company, they now manufacture, sell and distribute a complete line of meat snacks like beef sticks, beef jerky, pickled sausage, and pickled eggs.

Moyer Packing Company or MOPAC of Souderton is the largest beef slaughterer and fabricator in the East and is a major renderer of animal by-products. From their facilities in eastern Pennsylvania and southern Delaware, they ship boxed beef, hides, and rendered products as far away



Gov. Robert Casey presents opening remarks to the Pennsylvania Farm Show crowd Sunday morning in the large arena.

as Asia. From a family business started in 1877, this company now employs more than 1,200 people in its numerous facilities.

Pennsylvania ranks fourth nationally in the United States in the number of food processors with 2,300.

Wolff said the Farm Show is an excellent opportunity for our city cousins to gain appreciation for the hard work and tender loving care that goes into producing our state's wholesome food supply. "I always feel a special appreciation for our food at this time of year," Wolff said, "especially when you read about and see pictures of the many people without adequate food supply.

"Despite the relief, many people think with their new freedoms, their lives are still threatened by one simple thought: getting enough to eat. Most Americans have been freed from that burden for decades. We have the highest standard of living in the world, and one component of that standard is our safe, abundant, inexpensive food supply.

"Only 10 percent of our disposable income is spent for food, less than any other country in the world. We should all count our blessings and give thanks to the people in this nation who give dedication and hard work that allows us to take our food and fiber for granted."



Lt. Gov. Mark Singel and son Jonathan pose in the tractor cab.



Lt. Gov. Mark Singel tries a hand at milking a cow with encouragement from son Jonathan and Boyd Wolff, state ag secretary.



Pennsylvania State Farm Show