



Fair Happenings

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Celebrates Year Of The Rabbit

Rabbits, gardening, and entomology will be the focus of the 46th Montgomery County Agricultural Fair to be held August 19-27 at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Gaithersburg.

The world's longest bunny hop will be a highlight of the Animal of the Year celebration on Wednesday, Aug. 24, while daily demonstrations and hands-on activities will be the attractions in the Rabbit Barn, the Farm and Garden Building, and Old MacDonald's Barn.

Grandstand entertainment will feature three of country music's hottest stars, Mark Chestnut on Friday, Aug. 19, and Tracy Lawrence with Daron Norwood on Wednesday, August 24. Also on the entertainment line-up is a free stage Saturday, August 20 with an ECCHA Cutting Horse Contest sponsored by Yalich clinic; Sunday, Aug. 21, 4-H Parade and crowning of the 1994 Fair King and Queen; Monday, Aug. 22 and Tuesday, Aug. 23, PRCA Rodeo; Thursday, Aug. 25 and Friday, Aug. 26, R&R Demolition Derby presented by Henry's Auto Insurance; and Saturday, Aug. 28, the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair/XTRA 104 Beach Party with Jan and Dean and Gary U.S. Bonds. Tickets for shows are available through TicketMaster by calling (202) 432-SEAT.

Free entertainment includes racing pigs, ducks and goats presented by Southern States daily Sunday through Saturday, the Southern States Percheron Hitch Team Friday through Wednesday, and a chainsaw carver Wednesday through Saturday.

Premium catalogs listing the various categories in livestock, 4-H, farm and garden, arts and crafts, and home arts departments are available by calling the fair office at (301) 926-3100.

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Ma. — Every one of The Big E's 17 days is a special day as the Exposition salutes organizations, special people, groups and towns during the 73rd edition of "New England's Great State Fair," Sept. 16 - Oct. 2, 1994.

* **West Springfield Day, Sept. 16** - For over seventy years, the town of West Springfield has been the site of "New England's Great State Fair." To honor The Big E's hometown, a luncheon will be held for West Springfield dignitaries, West Springfield schoolchildren will receive free after school admission in honor of the day and the Daily Parade will feature West Side contingents.

* **4-H and FFA Day, Sept. 17** - The Big E salutes the thousands of 4-H and FFA youths who further the education of others by participating in agriculture and livestock competitions during the fair. Special competitions, judging contests and many other activities will be held to celebrate the day.

* **Salute to the White House, Sept. 19** - A salute to the White House to pay tribute to The Big E's premier exhibit, sponsored by Big Y SuperMarkets will take place Sept. 19. Special festivities including a surprise "presidential" appearance Sept. 16 - 17 will take place. The White House Replica, a 60-foot by 20-foot actual replica of the White House, will be exhibited in the New England Center throughout the fair.

* **New England State Days** - Each of the six New England states has a distinctive day at The Big E. See beautiful replicas of each state's original capitol building, housing information on natural resources, agriculture, commerce, industry, tourism and traditions, and sample the history of each state through exhibits and tempting native foods. Each state will celebrate its day with a special marching band in The Big E Daily Parade at 4:30 p.m. and add-

ed entertainment and special events.

The New England State Days are as follows: Rhode Island Day, Sept. 20; Connecticut Day, Sept. 21; Massachusetts Day, Sept. 22; Vermont Day, Sept. 24; New Hampshire Day, Sept. 30; and Maine Day, Oct. 1.

* **Senior Citizens' Days, Sept. 20 & 27** - The Big E offers senior citizens (over 60) a special discounted admission of \$6 on the two Tuesdays of the fair.

* **Agawam Day, Sept. 23** - The Big E honors its friendly neighbor to the south, the Town of Agawam, with free after school admission for Agawam schoolchildren and a special luncheon for our friends across the Morgan/Sullivan Memorial Bridge.

* **Grange Day, Sept. 25** - Built on the Avenue of States in 1938 through the efforts of all six New England states, the New England Grange Building will present special entertainment on the front lawn and a float in The Big E Daily Parade at 4:30 p.m.

* **Springfield Day, Sept. 26** - Schoolchildren in the "City of Firsts" will receive free after school admission in honor of Springfield Day. A special reception will also be held for officials and dignitaries.

* **Shriners' Day, Sept. 22** - The Big E continues to honor its longstanding relationship with this prominent organization. Don't miss the colorful Shriners' parade at 4:30 p.m.

* **Junior Achievement Day, Sept. 29** - This year marks the 75th anniversary of Junior Achievement, which was founded in Springfield, Mass. and was the result of a meeting at Eastern States Exposition. The Moses Building, located on Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds, was named after Horace Moses, the founder of Junior Achievement. To celebrate this anniversary, there will be an exhibit in the New England Center staffed by knowledgeable volunteers which includes a videotape display depicting the changes in Junior Achievement through the years. An interactive computer economics simulator will be on hand for children and teen-agers. Volunteers and students participating in

the program will march in The Big E Daily Parade at 4:30 p.m.

* **Trustees' Day, Oct. 1** - Trustees of Eastern States Exposition who volunteer so much of their valuable time will gather from around New England for the annual Board of Trustees' meeting, followed by a luncheon and a tour of The Big E.

* **Western Day, Oct. 2** - The Big E celebrates its last weekend

with Western Day and fairgoers are invited to participate by wearing their best western duds along with staff members. Also, don't miss out on the excitement of The Big E Championship Rodeo in the Coliseum Oct. 1 - 2 at 4 and 8 p.m.

Fairgoers may enjoy one or all of the 17 special days of The Big E, "New England's Great State Fair," in West Springfield, Mass., Sept. 16 - Oct. 2, 1994.

Gene Mapping Is Guide To The Future

CHICAGO, Ill. — Meat composition and quality could be greatly affected in the future by advances the industry makes in gene mapping, experts told meat scientists at a session of the Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) in University Park, Pa. These advances are happening in human and animal gene mapping research being conducted around the world.

The RMC was sponsored by the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) in cooperation with the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Host for the conference was the Pennsylvania State University.

Gene mapping is a technology that allows researchers to closely examine and analyze DNA. In people, gene mapping can be important in disease prevention by identifying the "who" before the onset of disease.

While working for different ends, technological efforts in human gene mapping have helped pave the way for animal gene mapping research being conducted by the U.S. government and academia. Meat animal gene mapping would allow the meat industry to identify animals with the genetic potential to produce offspring with carcass traits — such as tenderness or leanness — that are in demand in the marketplace.

According to Craig W. Beattie, Ph.D., of the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) in Clay Center, Neb., the research is beneficial if it can "increase the accuracy of predic-

tion of breeding values and allow for prediction of breeding values for traits in which data are difficult to obtain." Beattie said research in this area at MARC started in January 1992, and could be done by the end of 1994.

Jeremy Taylor, Ph.D., said checkoff-funded research begun conducted at Texas A&M University is well on the way to both locating and cloning a number of genes in cattle. The project, being coordinated through the Meat Board, is utilizing 32 Angus/Brahman back-cross families to look for associations between gene markers and traits influencing carcass merit.

"We have the capability to have a thousand (markers) by the end of the year," said Taylor, leader of the animal genetics group at Texas A&M. "The framework is there for us."

Gene mapping is by no means simple, the session participants agreed. For example, it took 10 years to map the human gene for Huntington's disease once it had been identified.

But session coordinator Jeff Savell, Ph.D., professor of animal science at Texas A&M University, said the process is worth it. "As we move into the 21st century, meat science is going to be impacted by the efforts that are going on in today's gene mapping projects," he said.



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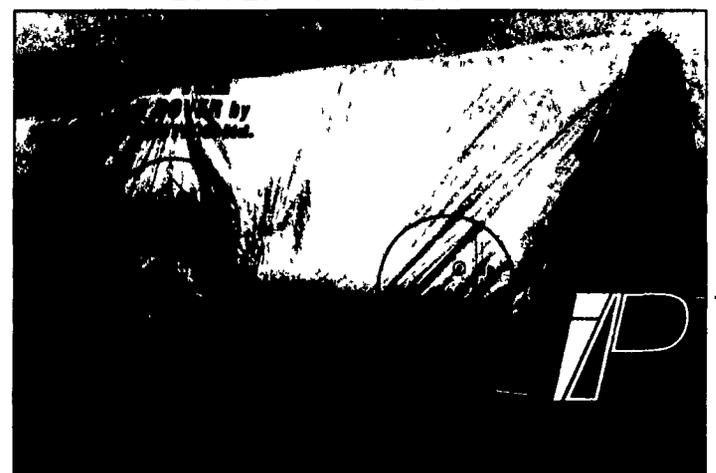


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