

Lancaster Farming

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PLA Inducts Hunter Into Hall Of Fame

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The 38th Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE), held at the state Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, was kicked off Thursday evening with opening ceremonies held in the Small Arena.

The KILE is the state's premier livestock show and features more than 1,700 sheep with two national shows; a large number of swine with two swine sales; beef cattle shows with three rated nationally; and a horse show that has continued to expand year after year.

In fact, this year has been dedicated to the equines and officially has been declared

"The Year of the Horse."

The opening ceremonies held Thursday started with a welcome and introduction by Dennis Grumbine, as well as a welcome by Tony Wagner, Pennsylvania deputy secretary of agriculture.

Charles Itle, Farm Show manager, gave an overview of the 38th KILE and the changes to this year's shows. Itle said that the size of the horse shows is tremendous and that this year, for the first time, a KILE activity actually started Wednesday.

The Appaloosa show was held Wednesday evening, an expansion over last year by adding an extra day to the horse showing for a total of six days.

Itle said the highlights of the evening shows includes Friday night's challenge of the breeds horse competition with 13 entries representing for the first time all seven breeds — this year for the first time, there will be Percherons, Morgans and half-Arabians added to the four other breeds to add more dimension to the challenge.

And he talked about tonight's evening program of 6-horse hitch competitions, with eight six-horse hitches competing in an event that qualifies the participants for the national event.

Beverly Gruber, who coordinates a lot of the event activities and promotions, reported to the crowd that advertising for KILE was expanded this past year to include three radio stations and some television advertising in an attempt to attract more of the general public to the event.

There has also been an expansion in the number of commercial exhibitors at the show.

However, the KILE opening ceremony is traditionally the time when the Pennsylvania Livestock Association announces and presents its annual inductee into its Hall of Fame.

PLA began its Hall of Fame recognitions in the very early 1970s and photographs of the winners are hung on a large placard on

the back wall of Small Arena in the Farm Show Complex.

This year's inductee into the PLA Hall of Fame was George Hunter, of Stoneboro.

Hunter, 77, has shown sheep at KILE every year, and has sheep entered for this year. A Penn State University alumnus, he

has worn a variety of hats serving various livestock breed organizations and dedicated much time to the improvement and consistency of competitions, support and educational events.

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From the left, George Hunter accepts a PLA clock from Peter Krall, chairman of the PLA selection committee, in honor of Hunter being inducted into the PLA Hall of Fame.



Corn ears are head high on the stalks at the Raymond Rinker farm in Upper Fairfield Township, near Montoursville. Pictured here is Curt Rakestraw, president of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association, on land he rents from Rinker. See what Rakestraw has to say about this year's corn in the special *Corn Talk* section of the paper. Photo by Andy Andrews

State Conservation Association Presents Awards

GREENSBURG (Westmoreland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) honored citizens and professionals who have helped to promote or continue conservation efforts in the state at the association's annual conference on Tuesday.

Conservation districts across the state sent nominations to judging panels for consideration. Winners were presented plaques honoring their efforts. The following

awards were presented:

- County Commissioner Director of the Year, Dale Gingrich, Juniata County. The award is presented to county commissioner members of a conservation district board who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of conservation districts.

- Watershed Protection Award, Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association. This award is given to an organization or individual who has promoted the protection of a

particular watershed through a coordinated land and water resource approach.

- Conservation Organization of the Year, Washington County

Groundwater Education Project. This award is given to an organization that has made a noteworthy contribution to the conservation of Pennsylvania's soil, water, and

related natural resources.

- Media Conservation Award, Wordpower, Clearfield County.

The award is presented to an indi-

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Canadian Farmers Visit Manheim Farmers

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Because Manheim Farm Show "sticks specifically to agriculture," many school children are bused to the event from up to an hour's drive away. The reason for the attraction to this event is said to be because that when the children get off the buss, they don't look for the midway rides because there are

none. The children look for the animals and the tractors.

Manheim farmers who are officials of the farm show pride themselves on the fact that there are only three small rides for children, and everything else at the show is either good food from one of the 20 different community non-profit organizations or something related to the area's agriculture.

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Lancaster County Conservation District was honored with the Goodyear Conservation Award. This award honors a district that is rated the most outstanding conservation district in the state by the PACD. From left, Aaron Z. Stauffer, Herbert N. Myer, Jeanne Sonntag, Robert E. Wagner, and Dave Cranston, district manager, Goodyear Corp., who presented the award.