

Bounty Celebration Brings Ag Tech Message To D.C.

ETTERS (York Co.) — The American Emu Association (AEA) and the Eastern Regional Emu Chapter (ERAC) combined efforts on September 17-18 and exhibited live birds at the fourth annual "Celebration of America's Bounty" held at the Claude Moore colonial Farm in McLean, Va. More than 4,100 people attended this event, including members of Congress, their staff and families, and executive branch officials.

EREC members Carol and Pete Heth of College Fund Emu Farm, Columbia, brought adult birds to the show one day, and four-month-old chicks. They also built a spectacular red and white barn facade to place in the booth space next to the emus.

Newly elected AEA President Bettye Odle was on hand to help greet attendees, as well as other EREC volunteers including the president of EREC and AEA board member, Bernie Redlawsk and his wife Judy of Bernie's Flying Emu Farm, Etters.

Pete Heth cooked and served emu meat to the "Bounty" goers, many of whom had never heard of an emu. Also assisting were Cindy Hitchcock from the Lord Willing Emu Farm, Culpeper, Va., and Rita Liptz from Rancho del REO, Bethesda, Md.

"This type of event gives the emu agribusiness a lot of national exposure, and we must continue to educate the public about the contribution emus will make to our society in the coming years," said Redlawsk.

Set against the counterpoint of

a colonial farm of the 1700s, the Bounty Celebration is a family-oriented country fair designed to increase policy-makers understanding of the contributions made to modern society by advances in agricultural technology. Wayne Boutwell, 1994 Bounty Chairman and president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, said, "Bounty Demom-

strates how agricultural technology is improving people's lives and diets, helping preserve our environment, and contributing to the economic strength of this country. It sends a positive message to our national leaders and the media about the contributions of american agriculture.

There were 67 sponsoring organizations, and many show-

cased advances in agricultural research and technology.

While education is the main objective of the event, the Bounty Celebration is much more than a collection of trade-show style exhibits. Children participated in corn grinding, wheat weaving and bread making, took quizzes on nutrition, took a turn on the Internet and looked through micro-

scopes at tobacco plants genetically engineered to produce drugs for humans. They also enjoyed hay rides, pony rides, a miniature ferris wheel, a merry-go-round, face painting, cotton candy and popcorn. Plenty of good food was available, including pork barbecue, catfish, oysters, apples, fruit juices, milk and numerous newly developed products such as no-fat ice cream.

Expansion Strategies Conference Set

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Are you a farmer, builder, consultant, lender, or other individual involved in dairy expansions?

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When making expansion decisions, dairy farmers must consider the long-term effects expansion will have on their finances, the health and productivity of their cows, the efficiency and comfort of their workers, and the surrounding environment. "Expansion Strategies for Dairy Farms" will bring together experts on these and other issues so that dairy farmers and others involved in expansion will be able to make sound decisions.

The conference will consist of 25 presentations from specialists in dairy facilities, agricultural lending, strategic planning, facilities planning, manure handling,

environmental assessment, and construction. Presentations will focus on incremental expansion as a strategy to ensure that the debt load is reasonable when compared to anticipated cash flow.

For a brochure containing the

complete conference program, a map to the Turf Valley Hotel, and a registration form, contact the Carroll County Cooperative Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157 or call (410) 848-4611 or (410) 875-2801.

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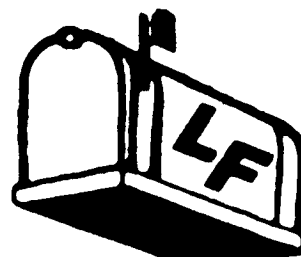
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