

The Farm Show Opens With Governor's Tour

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — For the 8th consecutive year Pennsylvania's Governor Robert Casey officially opened the Farm Show, this year to a large arena full of spectators ready for the High School Rodio that was to follow. But this is Casey's last year to officially visit the Farm Show as governor because Governor-Elect Tom Ridge will take office on January 17.

For this reason, Gov. Casey used the occasion to remind everyone that a lot of changes have taken place from the time when the Farm Show opened in 1917 with no animals and exhibits scattered over the city. Only 5,000 people came to that first event.

Even in the last two years many improvements have been made at the Farm Show Complex. A new \$2.8 million roof is overhead, the lighting system is new and now excellent, and heating and ventilation are also improved. In addition a new building has been added that

contains two floors for exhibits and demonstrations.

In all, \$10 million worth of improvements have been made and Gov. Casey called these improvements "an investment in our future, our children, and our economy."

Eight million dollars are generated each year in product sales and the farm show is central to this great family of Pennsylvania," Casey said. "If you see the farm show, you see the real Pennsylvania."

Gov. Casey also announced the release of the \$5.6 million for construction of the new animal health laboratory to be constructed beside the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture building across from the Farm Show.

"We must protect the largest and

most profitable part of Pennsylvania agriculture," Casey said. "I'm talking about the sale of milk, meat, and poultry. Sixty-eight percent of farmer's income involves animals. Animal agriculture returns \$2.5 billion to the farmers of the Commonwealth. It makes sense for one of our concerns to be animal health."

Gov. Casey said construction will begin this summer and the new lab will be a source of improved security against the threat posed by disease.

Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff introduced Gov. Casey as a man "Pennsylvania will quietly record as a true friend of agriculture. In the vanackular of the farm show, Gov. Casey is a blue ribbon

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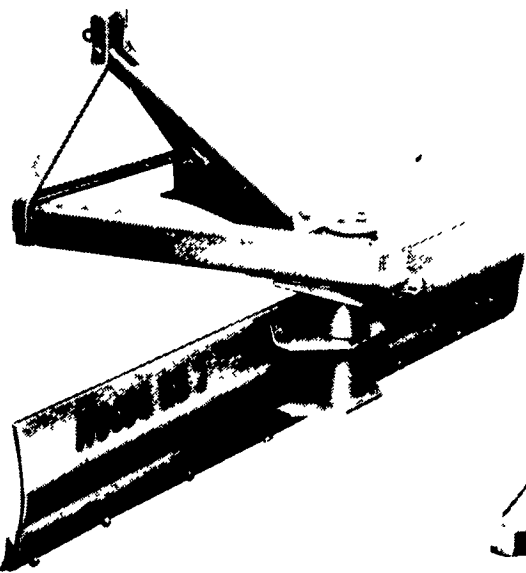
Gov. Casey gives the opening address in the large arena.



Gov. and Mrs. Casey received an antique milk bottle as a gift while preparing to ride into the large arena on a carriage pulled by draft horses.

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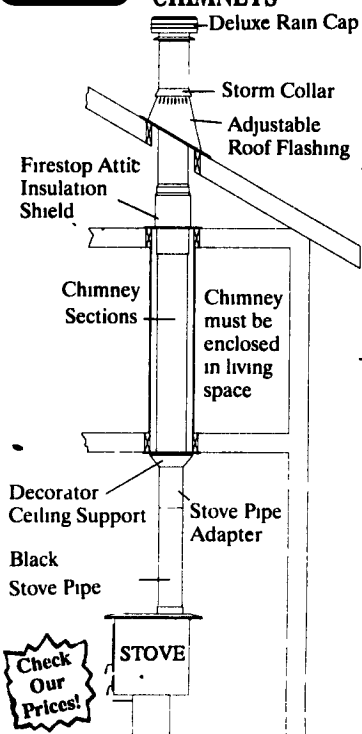
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