

PDA 100th Anniversary Display In Capitol

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — In the Rotunda of the state Capitol, Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius on Tuesday unveiled a display commemorating the 100th anniversary of the state's agriculture agency.

In a brief ceremony, Brosius told onlookers that it was a special pleasure to recognize the department's 100th anniversary.

"This display — which will remain in the Capitol Rotunda for two weeks — serves as a tribute both to the people who have worked for the department, and for the farmers and consumers we have served for 100 years.

"The display highlights the diversity of both our products and our services," he said.

The display is about 25 feet long and about 8-feet high, that structurally resembles a collapsible room divider. It is a mirror-balanced design, with evergreens on either end, commodity and product displays next toward the center, and the photographs about different aspects agriculture.

The display was built to resemble one done years ago, and incorporated examples of Pennsylvania commodities and processed foods.

The display also commemorates Farm-City Week, which ended Thursday, with Thanksgiving.

"We have put the display here during Farm-City Week so that it can also be a reminder of the very close ties we share with our urban

and suburban neighbors," he said. Brosius mentioned the tie-in to Thanksgiving and said that it was "... appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of American farmers who produce the safest, most nutritious, least expensive food ever produced in the history of the world.

"In addition to himself, each farmer produces enough food to feed 129 others at a cost of only 10 percent of the average disposable family income.

"This is in contrast to the six people he (the average farmer) provided for when the department was founded," the secretary said.

He was joined in the ceremony by state Apple Queen Kristen Johnston and state Alternate Dairy Princess Heather Oberholtzer.

The agriculture display was located along the northwest edge of the Rotunda, while along the southwest wall was a table of Pennsylvania dairy, apple and some other commodities provided by the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program and the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Board.

Brosius reviewed the history of the department, which grew out of a State Agricultural Board. "The department was established as a service agency for both farmers and consumers," Brosius said.

"Interestingly, Pennsylvania was the first state to pass meat inspection laws and the first to establish livestock sanitary services — a tradition of protect-



From the left, Pennsylvania Apple Queen Kristen Johnston, state Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius, and Heather Oberholtzer, state alternate dairy princess, stand in front of a display in the state Capitol Rotunda that commemorates the 100th anniversary of the state agency.

Crawford DHIA To Meet

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Crawford County DHIA Committee of Pa.DHIA has announced that it is to hold its annual meeting at noon, Dec. 11 at Hoss's Restaurant in Meadville.

Reservations are due Dec. 4. Contact Marsha Hollowell at (814) 587-3343, or write to her at RR2 Box 40A, Springboro PA 16435. Jane Kashner, who recently

retired from Pa.DHIA after 18 years service, is to be honored during the meeting.

The program is to include county production awards, and guest speaker Jim Boyer, the manager of the Pa.DRPC, who is to talk about AP factors, MUN analysis and the organization's free Performance Economics Program.

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