

# Empire Farm Days Has Small Beginning: Now Major Northeast Farm Trade Show

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SENECA FALLS, N.Y. — What started back in 1933 as an agricultural show sponsored by the Empire State Potato Club at "Potato Field Days" has grown to one of the major farm trade shows in the Northeast. With 552 exhibitors of farm machinery and services on 300 acres of the Rodman Lott and Sons Farm located along Rt. 414 south of town, the event now known as Empire Farm Days attracted 75,000 visitors, including many from Canada this week on the three-day run Tuesday through Thursday.

"Each year we try to learn something from the year before so we can improve the show each year," said Melanie Wickham, show manager. "For example, last year we initiated the Dairy Profit Seminars as part of the show. These

seminars offer the latest management and profitability strategies from those who know the business. Dairy producers, employees and industry experts share information with individual presentations and in a roundtable format.

"In addition, since exhibitors are a very important part of the show, this year we have divided the exhibit area into zones, and officers of the show spread out over the grounds each morning to talk to each exhibitor to see if they have any needs," Wickham said. "We try to meet those needs immediately rather than have an exhibitor unhappy for a whole day."

One of the highlights of the show is the field demonstrations. Here farmers had the opportunity to see competing makes and models of equipment under field trial conditions. Tillage and hay making

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Crowds were constant at the regularly scheduled equipment demonstrations.



Big equipment on display for all to see.



Farmers had the opportunity to get in close to the working machines to examine field operation.



Kayla Vossler, five year-old daughter of Dan and Rose Vossler, Wellsville, N.Y., gives the cameraman a milking demonstration on the fiberglass cow.



The huge field of display equipment included many tents and flying flags.



These small farmers enjoy a pretend tractor drive. Austin 2, and Tylor 3, were with their grandfather Robert Woodworth, from Swego, N.Y.