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Gov. Tom Ridge Makes Prominent Appearances At Opening Of Pennsylvania Farm Show

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Ridge figured prominently in three major events that

opened the Pennsylvania Farm Show last Friday and Saturday: the combined Farm Show and International Day dinner held Friday night at the Hershey Convention Center, a farm press conference held

Saturday morning just off from the press office, and the grand tour of the show and official opening in the large arena Saturday around noon.

"I would say to all Pennsylvanians, 'You have no idea when you go to buy that box of cereal or loaf of bread or bottle of milk how little of the price you pay ends up to go to the farm families who produce it,'" Ridge said. "You should all know out there that our farmers are the most efficient producers of food and fiber in the world. Dispel yourself of the notion that when you pay the price that it's going to the farmer. You might want to see how much they are paying the superstar for the endorsement. I'm just telling everybody, we have a lot to understand in what our agriculture and farm community do for Pennsylvania and appreciate the contribution they make to the quality of life in this country."

"This week we honor Pennsylvania's creators and their creations. We celebrate our land and the families who work it. We pay homage to our rich agriculture heritage and tradition."

A major feature of the opening dinner was the inclusion of 125 international guests from 35 countries who were invited to come to Pennsylvania to see what our producers and agribusinesses have to offer the world for export. While specific agreements have occurred from the first attempt at an International Day last year, Farm Show officials are banking on the notion that if we "break bread together," the friendly atmosphere will encourage export trade through Philadelphia's seaport and

the major airports from Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia that have daily flights connecting to all major potential exporting partners.

"That's why we have opened our Farm Show to the world," Ridge said. "Farmers in Pennsylvania are making their mark in international markets, markets in which two-way trade can benefit all participants."

"To every country, Pennsylvania will proudly show you quality products, equipment, and opportunities to purchase. But we understand a global market that is critically important to all of us depends on the development of bilateral relationships. Pennsylvania is not interested in paving a one way street. We are interested in short and long term relationships that insure that trade goes in two directions."

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Supreme champion of the meat breeds is the fall ram lamb shown by Lee and Louise Wagner, Easton, in Northampton County. In the photo, from left, Andrea Musser, Lamb and Wool Queen; Bud Martin, judge; Walt Pechatka, executive deputy secretary; Lee Wagner, owner; and Craig Flack, at the lead. See story and results on page D8.

The Winner Is...

The record crowds at the 1997 Pennsylvania Farm Show matched the many visitors who registered at *Lancaster Farming's* booth for an original old fashioned White Mountain Ice Cream Freezer. We are pleased to announce that the winner of the drawing is DELBERT E. SWARTZ, Thompsettown, Juniata County, Pennsylvania. Congratulations to the winner and thanks to everyone who stopped and entered the drawing. Our staff enjoyed meeting everyone of you.

FFA Keystone Winners, Star Farmers Share Honors

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The number of members on the show floor could be a reflection — 205. In all, the more than 3,000 FFA members and family in attendance Monday night in the Farm

Show Large Arena proved, indeed, that FFA is the largest student organization in the state — and perhaps the world.

Monday night was a major highlight in the lives of 205 Keystone Award recipients who awaited anxiously to receive the state's

highest honor at the 68th Mid-Winter FFA Convention.

At the convention, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Eugene Hickok told FFA members and family that FFA is the "largest student organization that exists." State membership stands at 6,400.

He also told them how important FFA members were to the "future of communities and agriculture as an industry."

Hickok told members to learn to apply their talents and energy to the future and to "stand up for the values you are concerned with."

U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, also speaking at the convention, spoke about his own family growing up working for a "company store in a company town," as coal miners. "We were poor but we didn't know we were poor," Santorum said. He said they grew up in an environment where there was a "family who loved them, neighbors who looked after them, a community that cared, and faith in a God they trusted."

Santorum challenged the students to keep America good, keep it great with the work they do and will continue in their chosen careers.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius welcomed the FFA members and family to the 81st annual Farm Show. He reminded them that, with FFA, there is no other organization that "prepares you to take your place in society."

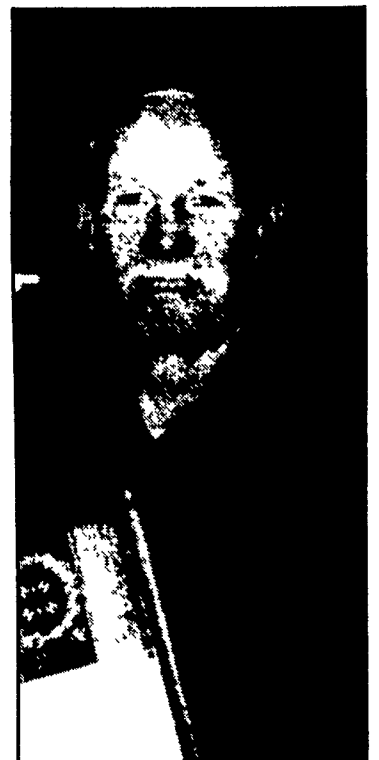
FFA supporters were recognized at the ceremony. The H.O. Sargent Award went to Dr. Ferman Moody, state director of vocation-

al education, for his lifetime achievement — more than 50 years of service — to the formerly

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Paul Neer holds the halter of the supreme champion dairy cow of the 1997 Farm Show, Walnut Hills Logic Cathy, an EX95-point Holstein, while state Dairy Princess Angela Werley and Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius present the banner. See story on Page A19.



Bud Dean, Strasburg in Lancaster County, received the J. Ira Coble Award at the Farm Show for his nearly 30 years of service as a 4-H leader. See story page A24.