Simmental Tops Pa. Bull Test, Sale

Department Of Agriculture

Open House Attracts Large Crowd

to teach people what our agency

does to serve each and every

New this year was an opportun-

ity to participate in ice cream mak-

ing, courtesy of the University of

Maryland, and an educational

trailer provided by the Maryland

Agricultural Education Founda-

tion to educate young people

about aquatic science and the

environment. Other highlights of

the program included the famous

hog calling contest and the hay

bale toss. Throughout the day

there were demonstrations in the

weights and measures, state chem-

ist, seed, plant protection and

mosquito control laboratories and

exhibits and food sampling of

Maryland agricultural commodi-

ties. In addition, there was a pet-

ting zoo, a farm puppet show, a

Maryland citizen," Riley said.



Pennsylvania's 24th Performance Bull Test recently ended with a smooth-polled Fullblood Simmental finishing strong as top gaining buil over all breeds. Bill Flagg, breeder, left, and Ken Faust, buyer, right, with WP Amadeus at Pennsylvania Bull Test.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The

Maryland Department of Agricul-

ture's Tenth Annual Open House

recently attracted more than 5,000

visitors to see the department's

many programs in action as well

as learn about Maryland agricul-

Greeting the crowd was Mary-

land Secretary of Agriculture

Lewis R. Riley. He was joined by

Maryland Comptroller Louis

Goldstein and the American Hon-

eybee Queen Lisa Anderson, who

is on a national tour in support of

so many families enjoy their day

at the Maryland Department of

Agriculture. We had many activi-

ties going on throughout our

buildings and all over our grounds

"I was extremely pleased to see

ture.

agriculture.

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania's 24th Performance Bull Test recently ended with a smooth-polled Fullblood Simmental finishing strong as top gaining bull over all breeds.

The Agnus breed was heavily represented with more than 35, and there were 15 Hereford, 13 Simmental, four Charolais, two Shorthorn, and a Buelingo!

Pennsylvania's test lasts for 112 days with a 21-day start-up period. Bulls are weighed every 28 days and their feed consumption is tracked using pinpointers. At the end of the performance test, the bulls are scanned for fat thickness and loin area, and frame scores are assigned.

Scrotal circumference is measured as well as a pelvic size measurement. The semen is tested for viability. Only the top 75 percent of bulls on test sell at the end of

swarming bee exhibit featuring

Bynoe the honeybee dog and a

plantn propagation demonstration.

Agriculture began holding its

Open House in 1988 to coincide

with the celebration of National

Agriculture Week, the third week

in March. The event has grown

each year and has become an

important part of the State's early

spring calendar of notable events

and activities. The Open House is

put on by MDA employees who

volunteer from the headquarters

building and from field offices

Agriculture is located at 50 Harry

S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis,

MD 21401. Visit the website on

the Internet at http://www.

The Maryland Department of

from all across the State.

mda.state.md.us.

The Maryland Department of

owned by Bill and Karen Flagg of Warren Point, Elverson. This Fullblood son of AF Topflight395A had an average daily gain for the 112 days of 4.91 pounds with a ratio of 123. His feed efficiency was 5.06 pounds of feed per pound of gain. The top bull had a fat thick-

The top gainer was bred and

the test.

ness of .26 and 13-inch loin area. This bull was out of a Target daughter, who is also the daughter of the Flagg's 50 percent Fleck-

veih Athena donor cow. The Flaggs have had Athena progeny on test previously and they have finished top or second. Sire Power

purchased the last Athena son at

the Pennsylvania Bull test.

This top gainer was also the top selling Simmental bull. He was purchased for use in Ken Faust's Purebred herd, Faust Hidden Oaks, Gettysburg, for \$2,500. Twelve Simmental bulls sold and averaged \$1,338.

Your Corn Planter: Is It Operating Correctly?

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The planting operation can be one of the most costly events that affect your yields.

The sins of planting will haunt you all season long. Mistakes made during the planting operation are usually permanent, unless you decide to replant the field at a later date. Plant stands that are established uneven and lack uniformity can reduce the yield potential of a cornfield even before the plants have hardly begun to grow.

Plant stand establishment is composed of two factors: 1. Emergence uniformity; and 2. Within-row spacing uniformity.

The planters used today have the ability to provide uniform plant stand establishment. When operated and maintained properly, today's corn planter can eliminate problems like tall-corn and shortcorn syndrome, long gaps within the row or groups of crowded plants. The yield performance of an individual corn plant is dependent upon the availability of sunlight, water and nutrients. Uniform plant stands allow each and every plant to have an equal ability to perform. If corn plants have to compete unneccessarily for available sunlight, water and nutrients ... yield will be affected.

In order to obtain a uniform plant stand, planter maintenance and operation are critical. The best available planter, when operated improperly or not well maintained, may only be as good as the last planter eliminated from your

operation.

Planter maintenance tips for preventing plant spacing variability are as follows:

•Perform servicing schedules as provided in the planter operation manual.

•With plate-type planters, match the seed grade with the correct planter plate.

•Planters with finger pick-ups should be checked for wear on the back plate and brush. Use a feeler gauage to check tension on the fingers, then tighten them correctly.

 Check for wear on double disc. openers and seed tubes.

•Make sure the sprocket settings on the planter transmission are correct.

· Check for worn chains, stiff chain links and improper tire pressure.

•Lubricate all chains and grease fittings.

 Make sure seed drop tubes are clean and clear of any obstructions.

•Clean seed tube sensors of the planter monitor.

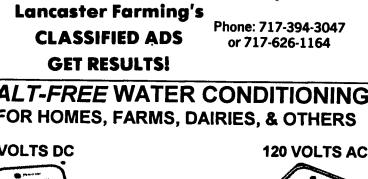
•Make sure coulters and disc openers are aligned properly.

•With air planters, match the air pressure to the weight and size of the seed being planted.

Starting the growing season with the best possible plant stand establishment can be a good start to obtaining the yield levels that your operation is capable of producing. Try to spend some time going over and maintaining your planter; it could be one of the best investments you have in this year's crop.

MILK. IT DOES A BODY GOOD."





Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 19, 1997-A35