Hayes Promotes Agriculture In Republic Of Korea

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) – Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. concluded a visit to the Republic of Korea as part of Gov. Tom Ridge's trade mission to Asia. Hayes met with distributors of Pennsylvania products and visited a Pennsylvania food manufacturing facility.

"The Ridge Administration's trade mission to the Republic of Korea is for the purpose of fostering relationships," Hayes said. "Our friends throughout Asia are as concerned about trade relationships as they are about trade deals. The Republic of Korea — with the 11th largest economy in the world — has been and continues to be, our friend."

In addition to meeting with the U.S. Agricultural Trade Office in Korea, Hayes held talks with agricultural trade representatives.

"Pennsylvania can be proud to have its agriculture in Asia represented by large corporations as well as smaller, familyowned businesses," Hayes said. He visited the Korean food processing facility of Heinz-Korea, accompanied by president John Johnson.

Hayes was accompanied on the trip by representatives from Brookville Wood Products, Brookville, Jefferson County, a leading producer of hardwood dimension products and lumber. They currently are not exporting to Asia and met with importers of hardwood lumber in an effort to open new trade opportunities.

The Republic of Korea is an expanding market because of the size and incomes of the growing middle-class.

The Korean visit was the last stop of the Ridge Administration's Asia trade mission, which included visits to Singapore and Japan.

"I believe we have supported Gov. Ridge's goal of strengthening trade relationships throughout Asia," Hayes said. "In this first public/private mission, we have successfully laid the groundwork for increased trad-

ing opportunities for our agricultural products."

Pennsylvania's agricultural exports were \$976.8 million in 1996, with food products leading the way. Lumber and wood products ranked second in total export sales.

Farm Show Bus Trip

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) – The Wayne County Cooperative Extension will be sponsoring a bus trip to the Pennsylvania Farm Show on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

There will be two pickup locations, one in Honesdale and one in Hamlin. The bus will leave Honesdale at 7 a.m. from the Wayne County Courthouse. The

bus will then stop to load at approximately 7:15 a.m. at the McDonald's Restaurant in Hamlin. The bus will leave the Farm Show Complex at 4:30 p.m. and return to Honesdale at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Your seat for the Farm Show bus can be reserved for \$15. Stop in at the Wayne County Extension Office located at the Wayne County Courthouse between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to pay for your seat. Reservations cannot be accepted without payment.

For more information, contact the extension office at 717)253-5970, ext. 239.



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