

Lancaster Farming



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Gov. Tom Ridge Keynotes Banquet, Opens Farm Show

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Ridge made himself at home with the farm community at the opening of the 1998 Farm Show over last weekend.

After serving as the keynote speaker for the annual banquet Friday evening, Gov. Ridge held a press conference Saturday morning and was later joined by First Lady Michele Ridge and his children Lesley and Tom for a tour of the livestock and dairy barns before officially opening the show from the large arena. Along the way, the Ridge family posed with the supreme champion hog, the governor tried his hand at sheering sheep, tried to milk a cow, chatted with youthful steer showmen, and Tom took lessons on hitching a draft horse team.

Ridge told the banquet crowd of 1,200 persons, including 200 foreign visitors that spanned tables outside the ballroom, that farming is the backbone of the Commonwealth and that 600,000 Pennsylvanians are employed by the food industry. He said the Farm Show brings us together as a state, but it also shares Pennsylvania with the rest of the world through the International Day and Trade Show that has become a part of the event.

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On tour of the Farm Show, Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Ridge and his family share a smile as they posed with the supreme champion hog, a Yorkshire, owned by Rattlesnake Mt. Farms, Julian. In the photo from left are, Sam Hayes Jr.,

ag secretary; Gale Bressner, judge; Charles and Mark Hall, owners; Gov. Ridge, Tom Ridge, Lesley Ridge, and First Lady Michele Ridge. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.



Gerald Allebach of Windermere Farms in Spring Mills holds the halter of the supreme champion draft horse of the 1998 Pennsylvania Farm Show, a 5-year-old Percheron stallion — King Cong — while Pennsylvania Draft Horse and Mule Association Queen Sarah Lang and state Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr. present the banner. See story page A31. Photo by Vern Achenbach, staff writer.

Pennsylvania Queen Clinches Lamb Championship

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — It seems fitting that Pennsylvania's Lamb and Wool Queen Heidi Svonavec should know how to raise champion sheep. Nonetheless, competition is stiff at the state Farm Show, where kids from across the state bring their best sheep to compete in the annual event held Wednesday.

Out of 187 market lamb entries, Heidi proved her expertise. The 17-year-old took the coveted championship title with a home grown crossbred.

"It's the first time I've won this," Heidi said of her six years of competing at the state event. "It's so exciting."

Also startling to the Svonavec family was that Heidi's 16-year-old brother Lucas showed the reserve market champion.

Judge Tim Hall remarked on the outstanding length, muscle, profile, and loin on the homegrown lamb. Generally market lambs are crossbreds and not purebreds. But

Lucas's reserve champion was a purebred that later won the champion Hampshire title in the youth show that followed.

The siblings are the children of
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Winner At Farm Show Drawing Named

Through this issue and into next week we have extensive coverage of the Pennsylvania Farm Show. The traditional Farm Show weather did not move in this year and record crowds at the beginning of the 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: Dale M. Brillhart, Spring Grove, in York County. Congratulations to the winner and thanks to everyone who stopped and entered the drawing. Our staff enjoyed meeting you.