



"I declare the 1998 Pennsylvania Farm Show officially open," said Gov. Tom Ridge to the full house in the large arena Saturday morning. "Let the show begin." And it did!

## Gov. Tom Ridge Keynotes Banquet, Opens Farm Show

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According to Ridge, 1997 Pennsylvania exports have continued upward, totalling nearly a billion dollars. This is an increase of 5.5 percent. The administration and department of agriculture have held trade missions to six countries, and more are planned. By the end of this year, Ridge pledged that 17 Pennsylvania trade offices will

be open overseas. That is up from four just three years ago.

As usual, the agribusiness awards were presented. R. W. Sauder Inc., of Lititz, Lancaster County, and Stoneboro Nurseries Inc., of Stoneboro, Mercer County, received the awards.

"These two companies have made significant contributions to the development and expansion of

agribusiness in Pennsylvania and to their communities as well," said Samuel Hayes Jr., state ag secretary.

Stoneboro Nurseries, a diverse wholesale nursery, houses Pennsylvania's only tissue culture laboratory producing woody ornamentals and a herd of registered Angus cattle. They received the award in the small company category.

A family-held corporation, Stoneboro Nurseries is now managed by the second generation with the third generation contributing to the company's effort. Established in 1962, they grew from a two-person operation with 56 acres to 66 employees and 400 acres of land. With the majority of its stock coming from Pennsylvania growers and its products shipped to customers across the United States and Canada, they contributed greatly to the prosperity of the Commonwealth's agriculture industry.

R. W. Sauder processes and markets fresh shell eggs and hard-cooked eggs to the northeastern United States and the export market. They were recognized in the large business category for their contributions to Pennsylvania's agribusinesses.

The company, established in 1945, has been a leader in food safety initiatives. They have their own 11-step Sauder's Tested Quality check Process that prevents their eggs from contamination and helped in the development of the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program, which covers 80 percent of the eggs produced in the Commonwealth.

Sauder, which processes 600,000 eggs an hour and 36 million eggs a week, also is a large contributor to Pennsylvania's economy. The company pur-

chases \$65 million of eggs, supplies and services from state vendors, and employs more than 350 workers at its Pennsylvania locations.

R. W. Sauder has plants in Lititz, Ephrata, Mt. Joy, and Lancaster. Other plants are in Ohio and Maryland. They participate annually in the Pennsylvania Farm Show capturing many first place honors.

Also in the second year of competition, the Farm Show Wine Award went to Clover Hill Vineyards and Winery of Breinigsville, Lehigh County. Owned by John Skrip Jr., the winery had a very successful year with its raspberry wine named "Best of Show," "Best Fruit," gold-medal honors and the Governor's Cup among other honors. The 40-acre vineyard and winery operates three year-round stores in the state and is the third largest in Pennsylvania with 10 full-time and 50 part-time employees.

Other medal winners include:

- Calvaresi Winery, Bernville, Berks County, one silver;
- Blue Mountain Vineyards, New Tripoli, Lehigh County, two gold, four silver and two bronze;
- Presque Isle Wine Cellars, North East, Erie County, three bronze;
- Strasburg Cellars Ltd., Gap, Lancaster County, two bronze;
- Conneaut Cellars Winery, Conneaut Lake, Crawford County, three silver and two bronze;
- Pinnacle Ridge Winery, Kutztown, Berks County, one gold, one silver, two bronze and "Best Sparkling";
- Mount Nittany Winery, Centre Hall, Centre County, one gold, one silver, two bronze and "Best Vinfera";
- Peace Valley Winery Inc., Chalfont, Bucks County, three bronze;
- French Creek Ridge Vineyards, Elverson, Chester County, one silver and three bronze;
- Nissley Vineyards, Bain-

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Don Bair from Biglerville presents flowers to Gov. Ridge at the plant stand in the main exhibition hall.



Upon arrival, Gov. Ridge is greeted outside the Farm Show Complex by Sam Hayes Jr., ag secretary, left, and Dennis Grumbine, show commissioner.