

Gov. Tom Ridge Keynotes Banquet, Opens Farm Show

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vania ranks fifth nationally in the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered at 67,800 head.

Pennsylvania Maple Sweetheart - Stacey Hamilton is the 18-year-old daughter of Larry and Phyllis Hamilton, Ulysses, Potter County. She and her family are fifth generation maple producers and members of the Potter-Tioga Maple Producers Association. Stacey is a senior at Northern Potter High School.

Pennsylvania State University Ag Advocates - Mariclaire Geier, 21, is the daughter of Leonard and Sally Geier of Greensburg, Westmoreland County. She attends the Pennsylvania State University majoring in both Horticulture and Anthropology. Twenty-one-year-old Jeffrey Balmer of Lititz, Lancaster is the son of Nancy Balmer. He attends the Pennsylvania State University majoring in dairy and animal science.

Pennsylvania Poultry Ambassador - Kendra Weaver, 18, daughter of Keith and JoAnne Weaver, Reinholds, Lancaster County is a senior at Ephrata High School. Kendra plans to major in agriculture/elementary education. Kendra will attend local trade show, banquets and parades on behalf of the state's \$563 million poultry industry. Pennsylvania ranks fourth nationally in egg production with 5.6 billion eggs and eighth nationally in turkey production with 11.7 million.

Pennsylvania State Grange Ambassadors - Amy Irion, 18, is the daughter of Robert and Nancy Irion of Greenville, Mercer County is the Pennsylvania State Grange Female Youth Representative. She attends Thiel College. Michael Tau is the Pennsylvania State Grange Male Youth Ambassador. He is the 19-year-old son of Chester and Michelle Tau of Springboro, Crawford County. He attends Pitsburgh Technical Institute. The Pennsylvania State Grange has 33,000 members in 66 counties that work toward making the state a better place to live through legislative action, community service and member services.

Pennsylvania 4-H Youth Ambassador - Mary McAllister is the 17-year-old daughter of Harold McAllister of Berwick Columbia County. She is a senior at Bloomsburg Area High School. Mary is active in the 4-H Ambassador Program, State 4-H Capital Days, Regional 4-H Local Government Day, a teen leader, vice-

president of Teen Council and has participated in various public speaking competitions.

Prior to the opening ceremony, Secretary Hayes and Dennis Grumbine, Farm Show director, escorted the First Family on a tour of the livestock exhibits. From the podium in the large arena, Gov. Ridge complimented both Hayes and Grumbine for their work, including a reference to the service award that had been presented to Grumbine at the Farm Show banquet. The governor reiterated his commitment to expand and strengthen the Commonwealth's global markets.

As part of the ceremony, the Pennsylvania State Police Mounted Drill Team presented a series of technical drills for the farm show visitors. The drill team had not performed at the Farm Show since 1976 until they returned last year. The team came back by popular demand.

After declaring the 1998 Farm Show officially open, the First Family watched, along with a full house of spectators, as the Youth Rodeo took over the arena. As the week progressed, 3,500 head of top-quality livestock and produce

was shown for a total of \$247,138 in prize money. More than 325 commercial exhibitors also were on hand to show the newest farm equipment and enterprises.



Tom Ridge gets in close to see how Alfred Rovenolt hitches the horses to the wagon while Janice Ruel looks on in the background. The Rovenolt family from Turbotville own the team of horses, and Ruel from Manheim owns the wagon that was chosen to transport the first family into a grand entrance to the large arena for the opening ceremonies.



The First Family at a milking seminar given by Mischel Reasner from Shippensburg. The 3 year-old Jersey cow seemed to accept calmly her role in the limelight. Below, getting acquainted with the subject from left, Lesley, Gov. Ridge, Michele Ridge, and Tom. Above, going to work.



Gov. Ridge and Sec. Hayes answer questions at a news conference.

Crossbred Wins Junior Swine

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Light Heavyweight: Keri Connelly. Reserve: Ken Reed.

Heavyweight: Weight Division 16 (255-257 lbs.): 1. Timothy Crouse. 2. Nicole Eisenhower. 3. Sarah Boyd.

Weight Division 17 (258-260 lbs.): 1. Lori Connelly. 2. Jill Vall. 3. Michelle Fetteroff.

Weight Division 18 (261-263 lbs.): 1. Amy Bollinger. 2. Joseph Tice. 3. Chuck Anderson.

Weight Division 19 (264-267 lbs.): 1. Binda Passaniti. 2. H. Banner Hall. 3. Courtney Smith.

Weight Division 20 (268-270 lbs.): 1. Andy Pudliner II. 2. Tisha Ebling. 3. Thomasina Leasure.

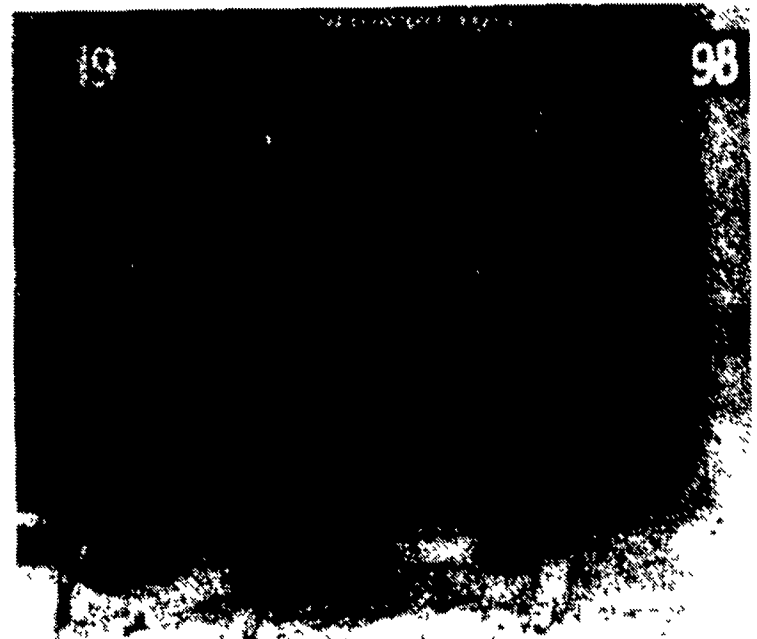
Heavyweight Champion: Timothy Crouse. Reserve: Nicole Eisenhower.

CROSSBRED CHAMPION

Keri Connelly
RESERVE
Katie Kochera

SUPREME CHAMPION

Keri Connelly
RESERVE
Janine Winebark



Carrie Merkel's hog was selected Poland China champion at the Farm Show junior swine show.