

KILE Celebrates

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traditional term used to address auctioneers) has done so much in addition to serving well as president that he deserved to be promoted to "general."

Bachman was presented with a plaque bearing a president's gavel by Tony Dobrosky and Secretary Hayes.

In his own address to the audience, Secretary Hayes said the future is bright for agriculture in Pennsylvania.

"I can't help but be excited about agriculture. I have never been as excited (about agriculture) as I am at the present time. There's never been a brighter moment."

He said that to appreciate his understanding and outlook of agriculture, it is necessary to understand the context of the past and present.

While not specific, the sense of the secretary's brief address was that — given the changes around the world with governments (trending from being closed or antagonistic ruling structures to becoming governing structures more on track toward democracy and free markets), and the resultant opening of trade or at least discussions of fair trade — the potential and opportunities for Pennsylvania to market its agricultural products globally have never been

greater.

With state government being in position to promote and support the industry (improved laboratory testing facilities, disease control, etc.), and political leadership seeming to understand agricultural business's economic importance to the state and its people, the potential for the industry here is broad and full of possibilities.

Hayes recently returned from a trade mission to South Africa, and although details of the trip are yet to come (trade missions help establish relationships which can lead to trade negotiations), he said it was a success.

He has made several trade missions in the past year and most have led to improved relations as well as actual trade.

Hayes said that the horse industry in Pennsylvania is as important to the state and to him, as secretary, as are all the other aspects of agriculture.

"I can't help but be proud to have the equine industry we have in Pennsylvania," he said. "I don't want anyone to think that this secretary doesn't recognize the integral part (the equine industry plays)."

Charles Itle, Farm Show livestock show manager said that KILE 1998 was one of the best to date, with the KILE horse shows the

largest to date, with about 550 draft horses (with about 100 Shire and 50 Clydesdale, and the Percheron show being the second largest in the nation).

He cited the national and regional cattle shows, the feeder cattle show, more than 370 head of swine, and about 1,200 sheep (including the regional Montadale breed show and the Eastern Regional Tunis show), as other examples of the strength of the event.

All combined, there seemed to be a sense that the show has matured to a grander scale.

In most cases, there were more livestock exhibitors for the breed and specie shows.

In addition, while many things can affect the attitudes of exhibitors and attendees of any special event, the atmosphere at the Complex and KILE has changed.

The new system of stalls, upgrades in appearance to the entire Farm Show Complex, quality entertainment, the largest KILE trade show ever, and visits from almost 2,000 school children who received promotional and educational materials from the breed organizations representing the four livestock species, were just some of the aspects of the show and facility that seemed to provide an aura of excitement and optimism.

Also part of the opening ceremony was the PLA's presentation of awards to outstanding FFA and

4-H youth. Every year the association selects a boy and girl from each youth organization who have distinguished themselves in their livestock endeavors.

Though the names of recipients and their backgrounds were previously reported, they received a plaque and a monetary award from Kathy Stewart, with the PLA com-

mittee, during the ceremony. Recently elected PLA President Mike Firestone of Womelsdorf helped to make the presentations.

The FFA youth recognized were Heather Bankert of Red Lion and Gregory Moyer of Middleburg. The 4-H youth were Heidi Svo-navec of Rockwood, and Paul Kitzmiller of Wellsville.

Beef Quality Educational Meetings Set

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Beef Council, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association and several other organizations, has scheduled a series of meetings to provide information to producers.

The meetings will feature information on targeting breeding for customer satisfaction, culling strategies, and enhancing beef quality and product value.

Refreshments will be served at all meetings. They are:

- Thursday, Oct. 15, Leesport Farmers Market, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 16, Carlisle Livestock Market, 7 p.m.

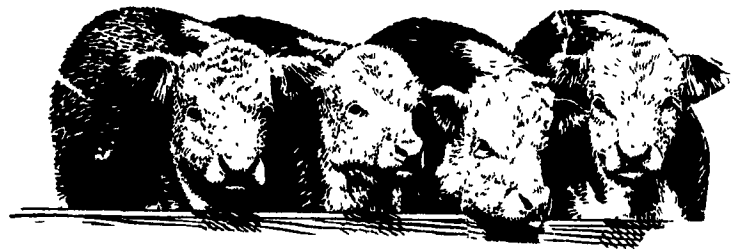
- Sunday, Oct. 18, Somerset County Beef Producers' Picnic, Error Hill Farm, 1 p.m.

- Thursday, Oct. 22, Middleburg Livestock Auction, 7 p.m.

- Wednesday, Nov. 11, hosted by the York and Adams County Cattlemen's Association, York 4-H Center, 6:30 p.m.

The meetings are sponsored by the Beef Council, the Cattlemen's Association, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Livestock Markets Association, Taylor Packing, and Moyer Packing.

For more information, contact Tammy Weaver, Pennsylvania Beef Council, (717) 939-7000.



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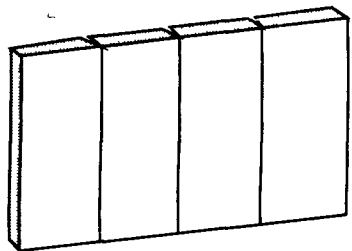
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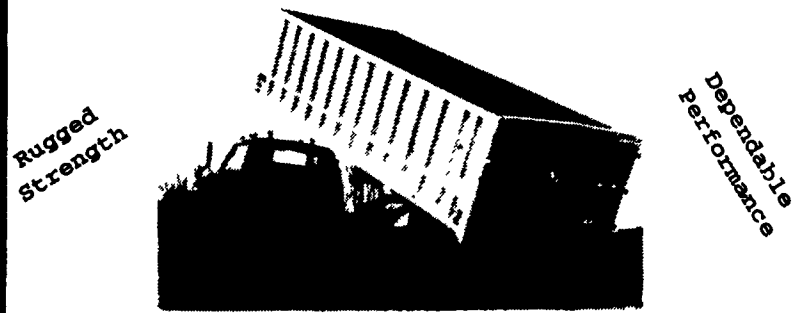
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