

State Farm-City Event

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Centre Hall, owners of past Farm Show supreme draft horse champions, were on hand with Percherons and a carriage, trotting back and forth in the parking lot.

Special needs dogs were on display, the PDA Bureau of Dog Law had a display with a warden (field officer) at a booth with a trained golden retriever who talked about caring and training a dog and how to avoid getting bitten, and how to avoid stray animals as a precaution to being bitten and perhaps being exposed to rabies.

Harwoods Development Council had a display with the Boni Brothers demonstrating chain saw carving. They carved several statues, and donated one of a four-foot high Bald Eagle on perch with a fish clutched in the talons of one claw foot.

The state Aquaculture Association had goldfish, koi and hybrid striped bass on display in aquariums in the lobby of the PDA building.

Edible insects — chocolate-covered roasted crickets — were the main attraction at an entomology booth near the aquarium, the PDA had its own display area and along one table pains and brushes donated by one of the participating schools and plywood cutouts to be painted donated by the PDA were provided and PDA staff helped the students paint their Halloween decorations.

Many weighed themselves for fun at the Bureau of Weights and

Measures' display; DEP had a hands-on demonstration about erosion control and nutrient management; Northern FFA had a petting zoo with baby pigs and Milton Hershey School provided a variety of animals, goats, sheep, rabbits, etc. for the young students to see and touch. Morgan Firestine brought her Polled Hereford heifer project animal for display.

The building and grounds were filled with displays from a variety of agricultural concerns — from dogs to logs, and leaf to beef.

The PDA staff, commodity groups and agricultural associations that participated provided youth with interesting and attractive displays and activities.

Children and adults were allowed to explore, to examine, to learn and to build their own self-esteem through gaining the knowledge they wanted to take, not what was being forced.

There were many and repeated comments about the wonderfulness of the event, coming from teachers, security officers, PDA employees, and students.

"Over 2,800 children experienced this 'Agriculture in the Classroom' event," Hayes said. "This event is a very positive opportunity to promote agriculture and educate our children."

For those interested in participating in the event, contact the PDA. For those interested in local activities, contact a local Extension office to find out about programs.



Randi Boni puts the finishing touches on this chainsaw artwork — a statue of a Bald Eagle on perch — while a small group of PDA Farm-City participants look on.



From the left, Cpl. Steve Junkin from the Pennsylvania State Police Carlisle barracks, and Trp. Lucinda Hawkins, with the PSP Academy, demonstrate the PSP mounted patrol.



The Elizabethtown Area High School Band performs a song for the thousands of students and participants at the state Department of Agriculture Farm-City event.



Dog Warden Paulette Clark talks to students and teachers about dog care and handling, and how to stay away from strange dogs.



Balloons decorated with the state Department of Agriculture's new logo, "Products for the Planet" blow in the light fall breeze while hundreds of children make their way toward candy apples and midway rides, or busses back to school.



State Department of Agriculture employee Dottie Grenier is actually the person inside the Hershey's chocolate sauce costume character that is receiving all the warm hugs from the elementary students, while PDA employee Sharon Trostle helps out as escort. Grenier and Trostle work for the state Racing Commission and volunteered to help with the day's event.