

Buck Motorsports Celebrates 25th

BUCK (Lancaster Co.) — When Buck Motorsports Park opened 25 years ago, folks would turn out in the hundreds for an evening of family fun, taking in a handful of events (with mostly a local feel) throughout the summer.

Now, as Buck Motorsports Park prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary season, a full calendar of events capturing local, regional, and national interest will draw crowds of more than 5,000 from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and more to the "Playground of Power" each week.

And while having monster truck shows, regional and national pulling events, mud bogs, demolition derbies, and championship rodeos on the schedule helps Buck Motorsports pack 'em in, the focus on providing family fun has never been greater.

"We take great pride in being able to showcase the level of performers and competitions we feature weekly," said Mike Hoff of Buck Motorsports Park. "But the reason we have been able to be successful and continue to grow for 25 years is our commitment to offer a fun night out for families

and people of all ages at a reasonable price."

The 1999 season at The Buck opens Saturday, May 8 with a Mud Bog Series Event, featuring Modified, Super Stock, Pro Street and Street Legal classes, plus the kickoff to the Tuff Truck Challenge '99 series.

"We're very excited about our season opener," said Hoff. "It's going to be a lot of fun, we're expecting a big crowd, and it's a great way to begin what we think will be a memorable year for our fans."

Among the other high-profile events coming to Buck Motorsports Park in 1999 are Memorial Day Weekend Demolition Derby and Fireworks Display (May 29), Dave Martin's Championship Rodeo (June 5); The Smoke and Thunder Nationals (June 12); Big Rig National Championships (June 19); 25th Anniversary Independence Day Grand Demolition Derby and Fireworks Display (July 3); The NTPA Summer Nationals (July 10); Monster Mania Showdown featuring "Bigfoot," "Firestone Wilderness," "The Undertaker," and "Stone Cold Steve Austin" Monster Trucks (July 24);

East Coast Points Series Summer Truck and Tractor Pulling Championships (Aug. 7); The Tuff Truck Nationals (Aug. 14); The 10th Annual Truckers Day at the Buck (Aug. 21); and The "Grave Digger" Monster Truck Show

(Aug. 28).

The '99 season concludes Oct. 2 with the Mud Bog Series Finals.

For most events, gates at Buck Motorsports Park open at 5:30 p.m. with action getting under

way at 7 p.m. Admission is from \$10 (adults) to \$5 (children 5-12), with children under 5 admitted free. Buck Motorsports Park is located 10 miles south of Lancaster on Rt. 272.

Pennsylvania Ranks Second In Christmas Tree Farms

MILLHEIM (Centre Co.) — The USDA has recently released information compiled as part of its 1997 Agricultural Census. This was the first census to separate Christmas tree production from other forestry products.

The census reported a total of 17,234 farms which harvested cut Christmas trees. Oregon had the most farms (1,626) followed by Pennsylvania (1,458) and North Carolina (1,257). The other top states in the number of Christmas tree farms were Michigan, New Jersey, and New York.

The 1997 census also recorded Christmas tree sales dollars. Oregon again ranked number one (\$111,999,000). North Carolina (\$49,422,000) switched rank with Pennsylvania (\$35,439,000) in this area.

Average farm size may be the major factor creating the difference in average farm income. The census also attempted to record

farm acreage, however, due to Christmas trees being a multi-year crop, with uncut trees to be reported as other nursery and greenhouse crops, there was enough confusion in the reporting process to invalidate these numbers.

As expected, the average sales of Christmas tree farms across the United States is, on the average, relatively small with 89.1 percent of the farms reporting sales of \$39,000 or less.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are very few large Christmas tree farms. Only 1.6 percent of the reporting Christmas tree farms had sales of \$200,000 or more. This did, however, constitute 48.8 percent of total Christmas tree sales.

In June, Pennsylvania Christmas tree growers will vote on a marketing referendum that will enable growers in the Commonwealth to pool their resources and invest in research and marketing

efforts on their behalf.

Growers who have not received information on the referendum and would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive a ballot, should call the PA Dept. of Agriculture at 717-787-5086. (In order to receive a ballot, growers must have 10 or more acres of trees.)

The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association is a non-profit organization that provides educational and marketing opportunities for its members. The PCTGA was established in 1942. Its members were pioneers in the commercial Christmas tree industry and were instrumental in the formation of the National Christmas Tree Association. For more information on the PCTGA or the Christmas Tree Marketing Referendum, call the PCTGA office at 800-547-2842 or email at drs208@vicon.net.

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