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State, Federal Governments Partner With PennAg To Fight Salmonella, Assure Egg Quality

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Representatives of the state departments of Agriculture and Health, the U.S. Food and

Drug Administration, and PennAg Industries Association Inc. were to have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) yesterday (May 28) outlining each entity's responsibilities in the fight against

Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) and to assure the quality of Pennsylvania eggs.

The event is noteworthy because it marks national recognition of the value of the state's Pen-

sylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP).

The memorandum is also, and perhaps more especially, noteworthy because it represents a commitment by all three organizations to work collaboratively for food safety.

State Secretary of Agriculture Samuel E. Hayes Jr., state Secretary of Health Daniel Hoffman, a representative from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Walt Peczatka, executive vice president of PennAg Industries Association Inc., were expected to have signed the memorandum dur-

ing a press event at the state Department of Agriculture Building in Harrisburg.

The event was to have been held too late for newspaper deadline.

The seven-page memorandum outlines the responsibilities of each organization in an attempt to further cooperation, communications and sharing of information all in the effort to better ensure the consuming public's trust in the safety of eggs produced and processed in Pennsylvania.

The term "partnership" is used to signify the working relationship

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Larry Moyer, at his Mertztown farm, and wife Linda, an elementary school teacher for 29 years, took over the farm from Linda's parents, Bill and Marge Gillespie, in 1992. They recently left the hog business because of various reasons, including severely depressed prices. See story page A24. Photo by Andy Andrews

National Dairy Shrine To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

FORT ATKINSON, Wis. — "A Golden Anniversary is a very special moment in time. It represents commitment, staying power, and meaningful service. All these describe the 50 years of existence of National Dairy Shrine."

This quote is taken from the opening introduction of the just-published book, "National Dairy Shrine's First 50 Years."

This book was written to assist in the commemoration of National Dairy Shrine's 50th Anniversary Celebration which is to take place on Saturday, June 12, at the Na-

tional Dairy Shrine Visitor's Center in Fort Atkinson, Wis. The Visitor's Center showcases the past, present and future of the dairy industry, while housing the organization's extensive collection of dairy artifacts and memorabilia.

The golden celebration will begin with visitation time from 8:30-10 a.m. Following the visitation, the official program will start at 10 a.m. and end at noon for the anniversary luncheon.

Following the luncheon, from (Turn to Page A34)

Timber Expo's First Farm Show Complex Appearance Impresses Thousands

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — For the first time, Timber '99, Pennsylvania's major forest products industry exposition, was open to the public at its new location here at the Farm Show Complex late last week.

Where normally the expo would attract only several hundred loggers, woodland owners, and wood products industry representatives, conducting the expo at the Farm Show Complex proved profitable for the more than 100 exhibitors. Attendance peaked at more than a thousand each day of the two-day event, on Friday and Saturday last week, according to expo organizers.

"We are the nation's number one producer of hardwood," said Ronald Andrews, chair of the Pennsylvania Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association (HLMA) and president of Deer Park Lumber, Tunkhannock.

As the state's seventh largest employer, the industry is home to 85,000 workers who produce more than a billion board feet of hardwood lumber each year to meet consumer demand, Andrews noted.

"That is enough wood to circle

the globe seven times," he said. "Our wood and paper products are highly valued all over the world."

Pennsylvania's forests now cover more than half of the state, about 17 million acres, said Andrews.

"In the old days, industry cut the trees, took the wood, and moved on," he said. "Today we stay and encourage good forest management and promote programs like the Sustainable Forestry Initiative."

Providing wood products today while assuring trees for tomorrow is "simply the right thing to do," said Andrews.

Sam Hayes, secretary of agriculture, commended the committee in bringing the expo to the Farm Show Complex for the first time.

Hayes believes the expo will continue to "grow and grow and grow." To do so, he presented a check for \$22,100 from the state to the HLMA of Pennsylvania.

State forestland comprises more than 2.1 million acres, according to John C. Oliver, secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). There are 500,000 private, non-rural landowners in the state.

State forest products account for



Outstanding Logger of the Year Carroll Kline takes a cut out of a maple during an opening log-sawing ceremony late last week during Timber '99 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. In background, from left, Rick Rufo, O'Shea Lumber and chairman of the show and Ron Andrews, chair, Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association of Pennsylvania and president of Deer Park Lumber. On Kline's left, Sen. William L. Slocum (R-25th); Sam Hayes, Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture; Robert D. Steele, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State; and James M. Seif, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. Photo By Andy Andrews

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