

New Agriculture Education Partnership Announced For Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. and Education Secretary Eugene W. Hickok announced the creation of The Pennsylvania Agriculture Partnership to increase and enhance agriculture education programs across the Commonwealth.

"We are here today for one mission — to increase awareness about the vital role and importance of agriculture in the lives of all Pennsylvanians," said Secretary Hayes Thursday afternoon during a ceremony opening

the Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE). "These organizations will provide the foundation for efforts to build that greater awareness."

Hickok said education is the cornerstone to Pennsylvania agriculture's success in the global markets of the next century. "Whether it is technology in

the fields, research in our university's laboratories or 'Ag in the Classroom,' agriculture education is the key element needed to build an industry that can continue to feed the families of

the world," Hickok said. Secretaries Hayes and Hickok were joined by numerous other farm and education organizations.

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Dairy Compact Extended Amid Political Maneuvers

Everett Newswanger
Editor

WASHINGTON, DC - The future of U.S. dairy farming, especially dairy farming in the Northeast and South, seemed to hang on political maneuvers in congress this week. Lawmakers

made an effort to give disaster relief to farmers while trying to avoid the regional fight over milk-price reforms and the lifting of the trade embargo with Cuba on food.

Meanwhile, U.S. District

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This farm family makes high quality milk on their Union County dairy farm — such high quality milk that they were honored as the 1999 National Dairy Quality Award winners at the World Dairy Expo this week in Madison, Wis. They are from left Chris Snyder Kauffman, Annette and Joe Snyder, Joe Snyder Jr., and Anne Brooks, Pennsylvania DHIA technician. The children are Colton and Katy Kauffman. See their story on page A32 written by Kaye Slusser from Pennsylvania DHIA.



Dr. Graham Spanier, president of Penn State University, along with Rep. John Barley, chairman of the Pennsylvania State House Appropriations Committee, visited Lancaster County Thursday to see how Penn State may play a useful role in the area's economic development. During the day, Spanier and Barley visited local farmers, the county commissioners, officials from Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and leaders in the Lancaster school district. In the photo taken at the Rohrer Dairy Farm, Millersville, are from left Bob Jr. and Robin Rohrer, Rep. Barley, Spanier, and Bill, Mike, and Bob Rohrer Sr. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor.

More Than 4,200 Entries At 43rd Keystone International

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — More than 4,200 entries are slated for competition in the 43rd Annual Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) that is in progress now through Monday at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex.

"The Keystone International is nationally recognized as a showcase for the nation's top beef cattle, swine, sheep and horses," said Secretary Hayes. "As a major livestock producer, Pennsylvania is again proud to serve as host to some of the finest quality livestock in the world," he said.

Noting Governor Ridge's support for KILE, Secretary Hayes said that premiums for this year's Keystone International were increased \$10,000 in the 1999-2000 Agriculture Department budget from \$167,000 to \$177,000.

At opening ceremonies of KILE on Thursday, the Departments of Agriculture and Education and a number of statewide agricultural and educational organizations signed a proclamation committing their efforts to cooperatively promote agricultural education across Pennsylvania.

As reported last week, Charles Itle, assistant Farm

Show director was named the Pennsylvania Livestock Association 1999 Hall of Fame Award recipient.

PDA Farm-City Day at KILE
On Friday, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) hosted more than 5,500 children from over 70 schools across the mid-state for PDA's third annual Farm-City Day at the Farm Show Complex.

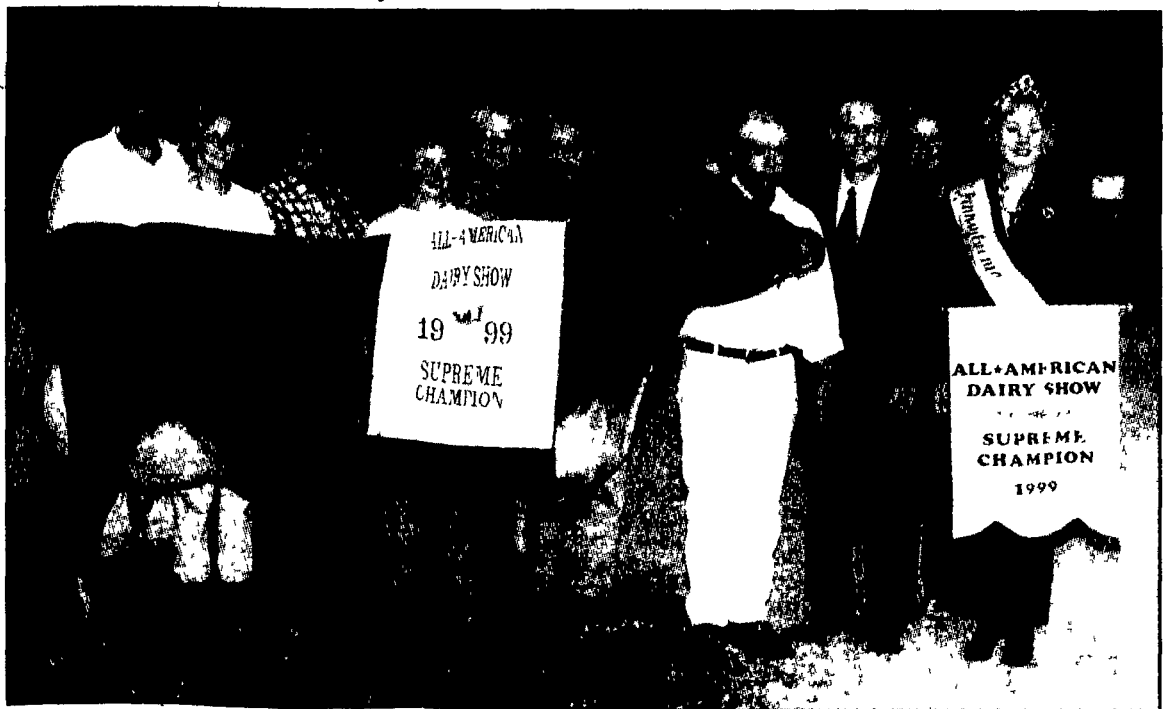
Secretary Hayes said, "It was a fun day and a learning day for thousands of young students." PDA's theme for the event was 'A Story to be Told... Lessons to be Learned.'

Held in conjunction with KILE, Farm-City Day is an "open house" for Pennsylvania agriculture, featuring an array of more than 50 interactive and informative displays.

Children have an opportunity to experience agriculture firsthand, with things like food safety and milking a cow; planting their own seeds and going through a maze; seeing hundreds of farm animals and watching baby chicks hatch; laughing with costumed characters and enjoying carnival rides; they will learn about insects and how to make livestock feed.

Saturday, was Family Day with attractions including the

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The supreme champion of all breeds at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show last week was Blacky Rose of Briarcliffs, the grand champion Jersey for New Direction Jerseys, Elizabethtown. Waverly Farm, Fred Strouse, and Justin Burdette are also part owners of this prize Jersey. Pictured here is Blacky Rose at her coronation with all her friends gathered in the large arena at the Farm Show building in Harrisburg. We have the results of the All-American dairy shows starting on page A22.