

Farm Show

organizations, senior citizens groups and the American Cancer Society.

Honorable mentions were also awarded in both the large and small business categories of the 2000 Agribusiness awards. Honorable mentions in the large business category include: Hatfield Quality Meats, Inc., Montgomery County; Farmers Pride/Bell & Evans, Lebanon County; and Knauss Snack Food Company, Bucks County.

Honorable mention in the small business category include: Conneaut Cellars Winery, Crawford County; Bell Export Foods Group, Philadelphia County; and Blue Ribbon Farm Dairy, Inc., Luzern County.



Gov. Ridge hugs a cow.



Gov. Ridge with Tiffney Morgan from Troy, Pennsylvania and Kristen Trotter, Bethney, Conn. The youths from the Pennsylvania High School Rodeo Association each threw a lasso over the Governor, Morgan this year, and Trotter last year.



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Farm-City awards were presented to representatives of Blair County Farm-City Council, The Franklin County Farm-City Council and the Fulton County Farm-City Council for outstanding programs in 1999. Each of the winning councils had added notable events to their programs that help bridge the gap between Farmers and City and Urban dwellers.

Governor's Farm Show Tour

Gov. Ridge along with his wife Michelle and son Tom, began his annual tour of the Farm Show Complex Saturday morning with a stop inside the main entrance by the Christmas tree display to announce that 100 farms will be preserved in the next 100 days from money available from the "Growing Greener" program he recently signed into law.

"Today, we kick off the '100 Days of Growing Greener' -- a celebration of the largest environmental investment in Pennsylvania history," Gov. Ridge said. "Over about 100 days, culminating in the 30th Earth Day celebration in April, we'll announce ways Pennsylvanians' extraordinary investment in their environment is making Pennsylvania cleaner and greener."

"It's fitting to kick off the next 100 days at the largest indoors agricultural exhibition in America -- The Pennsylvania Farm Show," Gov. Ridge said. "Over the next 100 days, we'll work to preserve at least 100 farms. The loss of open space and farmland is perhaps the biggest environmental challenge facing us in the new century. That's why 'Growing Greener' invests \$20 million this year and \$100 million over five years in preserving the quality of life our farmers enjoy and the beautiful vistas we all enjoy."

Ag Secretary Hayes said he will work with the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board, county farmland preservation boards, and the state's farm community to reach the goal of 100 farms saved by Earth Day.

Growing greener is a five-year program of environmental efforts to protect open space, eliminating the maintenance backlog in state parks; cleaning up abandoned mines and restoring watersheds; providing funds for recreational trails; helping communities address land use; and providing new and upgraded water and sewer systems.

Growing Greener will spend \$645.9 million over five years, \$105.9 million the first year and \$135 million a year for the next four. It will come from about \$473.4 million in new money from the State's general fund and \$172.5 million in funds redirected from the Recycling and Hazardous Sites Cleanup funds, and the Landfill Closure Accounts.

Gov. Ridge walked through the Farm Show and took the traditional surrey ride into the large arena where he officially opened the 84th Farm Show, and stayed to watch the Pennsylvania High School Rodeo. The first Pennsylvania family was joined by Sec. Hayes and Farm Show Director Dennis Grumbine. The governor credited Grumbine for much of the success of the Farm Show.