Center Releases Rural Access Guide

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) -The Center for Rural Pennsylvania has announced the release of the "Pennsylvania Rural Access Guide" on its Website at www.ruralpa.org.

The "Pennsylvania Rural Access Guide" is an extensive database that includes more than 350 sources of information on state, federal, and nonprofit grants, loans, and other assistance.

Rep. Sheila Miller, chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, said "Providing rural and small communities with the information they need to remain viable and healthy is at the heart of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania's mission. We redeveloped the original 'Rural Access Guide' and are introducing it as part of our Website so that more rural and small communities may take advantage of the wealth of information that the guide offers."

The Center first published the "Rural Access Guide" in 1994 as a booklet, which as a scaled-down version of a much larger database of information. The booklet included a sampling of state, federal, and nonprofit grants, loans and technical assistance programs and highlighted

each program goals and objectives, funding availability, and contact information. The booklet was widely distributed throughout the state and was well received by rural residents, local government officials, and community organizations. However, anyone who wanted more information about other programs needed to contact the Center for Rural Pennsylvanua for that information.

In this updated version of the guide, which was developed by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, the entire

database is immediately accessible through the Center's website at www.ruralpa.org.

"Being able to offer the entire database is a wonderful advantage of using the Internet," Miller said. "Another advantage is that the information can be updated more frequently and offered immediately to users, because the Center plans on updating the database at least once a year."

Recognizing that some rural residents may not have convenient access to the Internet, the Center for Rural Pennsylvania will also publish a booklet version of the guide for limited distribution. The booklet will be available in late spring.

While the "Rural Access Guide" includes an extensive listing of information, Miller offers that it should not be the final stop for information.

"It is a starting point from which rural and small town residents might more successfully begin their journey through the maze of financial and informational sources that are available at both the state and national levels," Miller said. "We encourage rural residents to take advantage of the programs offered in the 'Rural Access Guide' so that they might continue to answer the needs of their communities and organizations."

To use the "Pennsylvania Rural Access Guide," visit the Center for Rural Pennsylvania's website at www.ruralpa.org.

Top Lancaster DHIA

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Highland Pen Sale in Bath April 29

BATH, N.Y - The annual Highland pen sale at the Empire Livestock barns here is fast approaching. Twenty seven animals are consigned to the sale this year. Animals range from weanling age up to bred cows, coming from New York, Pennsylvania and Canada

This will market the first time that animals have been brought in from Canada for the sale This is an opportunity to not only meet our local breeders and their fine registered cattle, but there will be a good wide range of genetic material available to choose from.

Highland breeders are a very friendly group and always happy to talk about this grande old breed, said Kevin MacCrea, Locustbrae Farm. "Many methods are used to raise cattle these days, and the Highland breed is no exception. This sale gives you a chance to talk to farmers from many walks of life, all with different ways of achieving their end results. We all want to preserve this breed and not change it in any way, but we all have methods that work for us."

The sale is Saturday, April 29, beginning at 1 p.m. Come early so that you have the chance to look the animals over and talk with the owners. For a copy of the sale catalog contact:

Jess Brown, 8402 N. Otto Rd. Cattaraugus, NY 14719 Ph. (716) 257-3573 or Kevin MacCrea, Locustbrae Farm, 1664 Water Wells Rd., Alfred Station, N.Y. 14803, Ph. (607) 587-9270 e-mail locustbrae@hotmail.com, Website: http:// members.xoom com/Locustbrae/

