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Lancaster Farming

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Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge announces the largest-ever state capital investment in agriculture to a cheering crowd in the small arena of the Farm Show Complex Wednesday morning. The total of \$90 million for three major projects — the Farm Show Complex, Penn's Vet School, and PDA's Livestock Center — will be taken from the Pennsyl-

vania general fund. Therefore, no bonds will need to be floated and taxpayers will save \$50 million in interest. With the governor on stage are from left, Judith Rodin, president, University of Pennsylvania; Stephen Reed, Harrisburg mayor; and Samuel Hayes Jr., Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor.

Gov. Ridge Commits \$90 Million Capital Investment From General Fund To Farm Show, Evaluation Center, And Veterinarian Facilities

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - In a carnival-like atmosphere with standing ovations and cheers of agreement, 600 VIP farmers, educators, legislators, and agribusiness representatives jam-packed the small arena in the Farm Show Complex Wednesday morning to hear Pennsylvania's Gov. Tom Ridge announce a \$90 million capital investment in agriculture. This largest-ever state in-

vestment will go to three projects—a new exposition center and major renovations to the state farm show complex, a new teaching and research center at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in Philadelphia, and a new livestock evaluation center on Penn State's agronomy farm in Centre County.

"We want to change how the world views Pennsylvania agriculture," Gov. Ridge said. "We are a leader among states and competitors among nations. Ev-

eryone needs to eat and we are proud of our agriculture industry.

"Today we send a powerful message to our 60,000 farm families across Pennsylvania: we appreciate what you do and we are committed to investing in your

future. From milk and mushrooms to sweet corn and snap beans, Pennsylvania's agriculture industry makes 'products for the planet'. But if we are to continue to be a world leader in agriculture, then we must be prepared to invest in the infras-

tructure that will allow our farm families to compete in the new economy of the 21st Century," Ridge said. "We want to go beyond endurance in the ag industry and go on to prosperity."

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Penn State Ag ADDRESS 2000



The annual Penn State Ag Progress Days run next week, Aug. 15 to Aug. 17, at Rockspring near State College. We have an exhibit field layout, a list of commercial exhibitors, the program schedule and many articles that feature the new events of interest. In fact we have in-

cluded two special sections in this issue dedicated to Penn State and their research activities. In the photo from last year, the hay making equipment is featured to the crowd with the main "tent city" in the background. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor