

Volunteers, Donations Turn Reading Fairground From Dream To Reality



At a cost of more than \$3 million, the new Reading Fairground — which existed only on paper for the past few years — came to fruition, mostly from private donors and the help of hundreds of volunteers. Photo by Andy Andrews

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — In the brand-new show ring, under the brand-new pole barn, a poster, encased in a picture frame, tells the story of how a dream was constructed.

The poster has a headline that reads "A Gift to Reading and Berks County From the Berks County Building and Construction Trades Council."

The same note of thanks on a banner extends over the side of the exhibit area — thanks for a job well done, a job that was finished just in time.

About 60 acres of land were donated from the Berks County Commissioners and the Bern Township board of supervisors and planning. On the poster, work from at least 17 companies was done — mostly free of charge.

Some of those involved in construction included the Carpenters Local Union 492, the Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 592, Plumbers Union Local 690, Electrical Workers Local 743 — more than 300 members from the county building and construction trades.

At the start of the fair this week, work was still under way, according to John Falter, Berks 4-H agent.

The Reading Fair is a 146-year old Berks County tradition. Volunteers stayed up late — some even began work at 10:30 or later at night to finish in time for this year's fair.

Though some estimates vary, actual costs are less than \$300,000 — meaning about 90 percent of the costs was donated by the community.

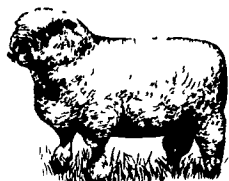
At a cost of more than \$3 million, the new Reading Fairground — which existed only on paper for the past few years — came to fruition, mostly from private donors and the help of hundreds of volunteers.

Two pole barns measuring 125 feet by 60 feet apiece are joined by a show ring measuring 60 by 60 feet.

Altogether, the site of the new Reading Fair, on County Welfare Road and Hill Top Road on the way to Berks Heim, encompasses about 80 acres, according to Wayne Readinger, agricultural director of the Agricultural and Horticultural Association of Berks County.

Some of the acreage of the Berks County 4-H Center was used to house fair activities.

According to the posters, Jim Reilly and the Operating Engineers Local 542 donated more than \$750,000 in free labor and equipment to fairground construction. Two weeks ago, according to the fair organizers, before the start of the fair, an "assembly line" of final preparations were ongoing to finish the fairground on time.



Packard Shows

(Continued from Page A36)

mond, owned by Jodi Lynn Crawford. 2. Du-Mar Leader Celma, owned by Heidi Alderfer. 3. Gen-Rich Katrina, owned by Gen-Rich Farm.

Fall Yearling: 1. Pack-Herd Encore Batornia, owned by David Packard. 2. Braund Valley Alvin Abby, owned by Andrew Ensign. 3. Du-Mar Formation Aquata, owned by Gina Alderfer.

Dry Cow 2 years and over: 1. Du-Mar Broker Larrah, owned by Heidi Alderfer. 2. Du-Mar Marko Zedek, owned by Jeremy Alderfer. 3. Pack-Herd Encore Bazuka, owned by David Packard.

Junior 2-Year-Old: 1. Mt-Glen Mason Arlene, owned by Ben and Dean Jackson. 2. Calkins Farm Mandelin, owned by Calkins Farm. 3. Snowcrest Ice Jocelyn, owned by Snowcrest Farm.

Senior 2-Year-Old: 1. Du-Mar Kemviev Fifi, owned by Jeremy Alderfer. 2. Braund Valley Peanut Butter, owned by Craig Sheeley. 3. PA-Gateway Melnick Achoo, owned by William Hennip.

Junior 3-Year-Old: 1. Pack Herd Milan Blouely, owned by Pack Herd Holsteins. 2.

Mi-Dream Ryan Ellie, owned by William Hennip. 3. Braund-Valley Parmesan, owned by Greta Braund.

Senior 3-Year-Old: 1. Braund Valley Wiggle 100, owned by Braund Valley Farms. 2. Pack-Herd Milan Barbara, owned by Amy Packard. 3. Snowcrest Skybuck Jiffy, owned by Snowcrest Farm.

4-Year-Old: 1. Pack-Herd Encore Bell Toll, owned by David Packard. 2. Snowcrest Astre Jamaica, owned by Snowcrest Farm. 3. Springcroft Pine Ren Janice, owned by Springcroft Farms Five-Year-Old: 1. Snowcrest Flip Jingle, owned by Snowcrest Farm. 2. Mt-Glen Wayne Britney, owned by Ben and Dean Jackson. 3. Braund-Valley Peanut, owned by Craig Sheeley.

Six Years and Over: 1. Springcroft Skybuck Hei, owned by Springcroft Farms. 2. Mt-Glen Orion Bootie, owned by Ben and Dean Jackson. 3. Braund Valley Polo Bonnet, owned by Braund Valley Farms.

Lifetime Production: 1. Miss Inspiration Joyous-ET, owned by Ben and Dean Jackson and Ridgedale Farms. 2. Ho-Crawf Melvin Dulcia, owned by Ho-Crawf Holsteins. 3. Snowcrest Farms Logic Teran-Red, owned by Snowcrest Farms.



The Jackson family earned premier exhibitor banner at the 2000 Troy Fair. Shown, from left are, Corissa Coolbaugh, Ken Young, Courtney Jackson, Jerry Young, Rebecca Jackson, Dean Jackson holding Clark Jackson, Regina Jackson, Ben Jackson, Lonnie Thomas, Roland Ripley, and Samantha Barrett. In front are Hannah, Katie, and Kyle Jackson.

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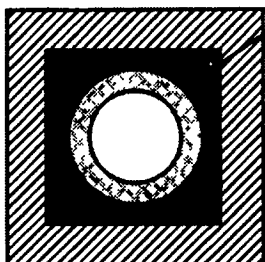
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