

# National Conference, Show Draws Highlanders To Harrisburg

**MICHELLE RANCK**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co) — Whether they are red, silver, dun, black, a wooly calf or a long-haired adult, Scottish Highland cattle attract attention.

Recently Harrisburg hosted the American Highland Cattle Association's (AHCA) annual national convention featuring the unique breed. Special activities included a show, performance-tested bull and select heifer sale, and educational workshops.

In addition the American Highland Breeder's Association, a national organization headquartered in Denver, Colorado, conducted a meeting during the conference.

Events included seminars addressing performance data, a carcass competition, and farm tour. The Mid-Atlantic Highland Association (MAHA) Spring Classic show, with approximately 125 animals entered, was conducted at the Farm Show complex.

Participating producers came from Ontario, Connecticut, Minnesota, New York, Virginia, Nebraska, Michigan, Tennessee, and Ohio. A bull and select heifer sale followed the show.

The bull test included a 140-day feed test, breeding soundness exam, and collection of performance and ultrasound data. Out of the 25 bulls on test, 19 were slated to be sold at the sale.

**Shows Conducted Around The U.S.**  
Larry Wentz, East Greenville,

owns 55 Scottish Highland cattle and took three animals to the show. Wentz has attended numerous Highland shows, including taking a trip to Bozeman, Montana last year.

He is planning to go to the conference in Washington state next year. He has shown cattle for the last 4-5 years in Syracuse, New York; Louisville, Kentucky; and Cambridge, Ohio, besides attending a show in Denver, Colorado.

"The animals are unique, hardy, docile, and fun to work with," said Wentz. "They produce some of the best meat you can buy. Also, I wanted easy calving cattle."

Herd expansion "just seemed to happen" to Wentz, who had only three head of Scottish Highland cattle five years ago. "I just keep buying more," he said.

Wentz also sells the cattle as freezer beef and breeding stock. Because of the breed's double hair coat, back fat is less than other conventional breeds.

"Color is sort of predictable but the calves can be one of three or four colors," said Highland owner Judy Ligo, Grove City. Ligo and her husband, John, are dairy producers and also own 40 head of Scottish Highland cattle.

According to Ligo, the cattle can be silver, or "white with black trim," (black noses and feet) said Ligo, a deep dark red to a very light red to yellow. Others are dun, a gray color, black, or even white.

"The traditionalists prefer red since most of them are red," she

said. "Hobbyists like variety. We happen to have a variety, which is kind of fun. My mother (Jan Harding), calls them the 'jelly bean herd.'"

They have found the best market to be families with 5-10 acres looking for pets, according to Ligo. "We work hard with the

calves as far as halter-breaking them, combing them, and getting them used to people. The calves will follow us around easily. They loved to be combed."

**Shat Acres Farm**  
Ray Shatney, Greenboro, Vermont, exhibited four Scottish Highland cattle at the show. His

family, which now owns 40 head, began raising the cattle in 1967, one of the first operations in the Northeast to own a herd.

"One of our original cows was a cow from the Dakotas," he said. Since the animals were rela-

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Larry Wentz, East Greenville, combs out "Jitterbug," a 13-month-old Highland heifer. "It usually takes two to three hours to get them ready for show after they are clean," said Wentz.

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## USDA Names AMS Deputy Administrator

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has announced the selection of Barbara C. Robinson as the new deputy administrator of the AMS Transportation and Marketing Program.

Robinson began her career with USDA in 1980, working in domestic and international policy areas at the Economics Research Service (ERS). She went on to become the assistant director of the National Economics Division of ERS.

In 1989, Robinson began a year with the White House Council of Economic Advisors. From 1991 until leaving ERS in 1992, she served as economics editor of Agricultural Outlook magazine.

In 1992, Robinson moved to AMS as the deputy associate administrator, where she worked to help oversee program management and direct marketing services. During this time, she also served as executive director for the USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration.

Robinson received a master's degree in agricultural economics from Clemson University and a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Maryland.

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