



Lebanon Celebrates With Banquet

Farm-City Event Highlights Ag Accomplishments, Awards

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Again this year the agriculture community of Lebanon gathered at the Lebanon Expo Center to celebrate the achievements of the past year and enjoy a meal followed by reports from Farm-City exchange participants.

About 600 people attended Tuesday evening's banquet.

Aletta Schadler, MC of the event, opened by noting the highlights of the past year. Farmers in the area, according to Schadler, were able to harvest "a good year of crops" in spite of low amounts of rainfall. Additionally Lebanon County was first in the state for milk production per cow and first in protein production per cow. The county was also sixth in the state for butterfat.

Also, two judging teams achieved high placings in national competition. The 4-H livestock judging team led by Brian

Kreider was first at state achievement days. This win was followed by the team placing second at the American Royal in Kansas City and third at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE).

The 4-H dairy judging team led by Allen Hostetter and Galen Kopp garnered a first place in states and sixth at NAILE.

The county's large agricultural events included a dairy tour that attracted 500-600 people. Hosts of the event were the Sellers family, owners of Gem-Rock Holsteins, and the Reist family, owners of Ken-Joda farm. Nelson and Glen Martin, Nel-Ray Dairy Farm, hosted 75 chamber members during their farm tour.

The ag committee of the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce again recognized a farm with more than 100 years of consecutive ownership. This year Joan Rittle, wife of the late Earl Rittle, accepted the 2001 Cen-

tury Farm Award.

The couple took over the farming operation where Earl was raised and expanded the dairy herd from 20 to 50 head, besides raising crops and having a flock of laying hens.

They raised three children, Ruth Ann, Karen, and David, and farmed together until Earl passed away in 1989. Rittle lives on the edge of the farm and his wife Kim run the farm. Rittle is a member of many community and church-related organizations.

Barbara Grumbine, who presented the award, also made the announcement that on Tuesday Pennsylvania had received three awards at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Convention that her husband, Dennis, was attending. Dennis is the executive director of the Farm Show.

The complex received top placing in the "competitive agri-

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The Varner family operates one of the businesses featured in *Grower & Marketer*, included this issue. Read about the products they sell from their home farm in Collegeville. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

Farm Show Receives Major Recognition By IAFE

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission was recognized by the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) during a convention here at the Hilton Hotel.

According to Farm Show Executive Director Dennis Grumbine, Farm Show received three major awards — a first.

"We've never anything like it," he said on announcing the awards.

Farm Show won in three sep-

arate divisions. They include:

- Overall Competitive Agriculture Program.
- Overall Program for Commercial Agricultural Exhibitors.
- Non-Event Agriculture Program (the Farm Show entered the world-renowned All-American Dairy Show in this category).

In a letter to Farm Show friends of Dec. 4, Grumbine wrote: "In 1998, magazine *Events Business News* selected the annual Farm Show as the nation's number 1 rodeo/

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Lancaster DHIA Grows

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
SMOKETOWN (Lancaster Co.) — Entering its 10th year of operation, Lancaster DHIA continues to increase in membership and service capacity, the board told members attending the annual banquet at Good 'N Plenty Restaurant here Tuesday.

As of August, 2,230 herds were on the program, more than double the number serviced in 1992 when the organization first started, said Tom Lapp, field committee chairman.

Thirty-nine percent of those herds are outside of Lancaster County, in an area that stretches from Somerset and Centre counties in the west and north to Berks County in the east and Delaware and northern Maryland to the south.

Lapp said the figures add up to a total of nearly 132,000 cows on test, with a gain of 113 herds and more than 16,000 cows this year.

Including all breeds on test, average milk production per cow was 20,761 pounds, down from 21,062 pounds last year.

President Steve Hershey said two possible reasons for the slip in production might be found in lowered forage quality and the high cost of replacement stock.

The relatively high price of dairy cattle might have lowered production by causing farmers to keep some cows in the herd longer than usual, he said.

According to Ed Zug, laboratory chairman, an average of more than 109,000 milk samples were processed each month this year, with the aid of a new line

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This year's exchanges included Michael Wahmann, chief of the Lebanon City Police Department; Marlin Martin, hog farm owner; Jean Swift, coordinator of community relations and development for Lebanon School District; and Evelyn Marvel of Risser Marvel Farm Market. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

PASA's 'Healthy Farms, Communities' Conference Set

MILLHEIM (Centre Co.) — The 11th annual Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) "Farming for the Future" Conference is scheduled Feb. 8-9 in State College.

The theme is "Healthy Farms, Healthy Communities — Our Link to a Sustainable Future."

The conference will include workshops that demonstrate

practices and ideas that bring health to families, animals, communities, waterways and soils.

John Ikerd will give the keynote address speaking on the strength of community based agriculture.

Plans are under way for more than 50 workshops. A few examples are a model for a sheep's milk cooperative from the Midwest, a pastured poultry opera-

tion that has successfully increased production from a few hundred birds to a few thousand, a session on "How to Work With Your Legislators," and an eye-opening workshop on the "True Cost of Food."

Brought in by popular demand, Sally Fallon will present her views and findings on the nutritional benefits of

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