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Ott's Exotic Plants near Schwensville is home to the "Mountain of Mums" in fall and the "Mountain of Pansies" in spring. Read more about the eye-catching display in this issue of *Lancaster Farming's Grower & Marketer*. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Brothersvalley FFA Takes Top Honors

SANDRA LEPLEY
Somerset Co. Correspondent
BERLIN (Somerset Co.) — The Berlin Brothersvalley FFA in southern Somerset County earned top honors at the State Farm Show recently. The demonstration and safety teams won first place overall. Keystone Essay Kontest winner was Stephanie Hartman of Berlin's FFA. "This is an amazing group of students who are dedicated and well rounded," said Michael Clark, a first-year agricultural teacher who has taken over for veteran teacher Doyle Paul this year. "The honors at the Farm Show made all the effort worthwhile."

The demonstration team, with members David Bittner, Stephanie Hartman, Rebekah Fox, and Jenny Fisher, traveled to the Farm Show on Jan. 7 to compete in the state contest with their presentation, entitled "Life-Saving Knowledge," which included five different CPR procedures. Stephanie Hartman, also the Keystone Essay Kontest finalist, was also a member of the first-place demonstration team. She explained that her team went through 10 different practices, working sometimes until after 10 p.m. school nights. "It paid off," said Hartman, a senior. "We received very high comments from Mr. Clark and

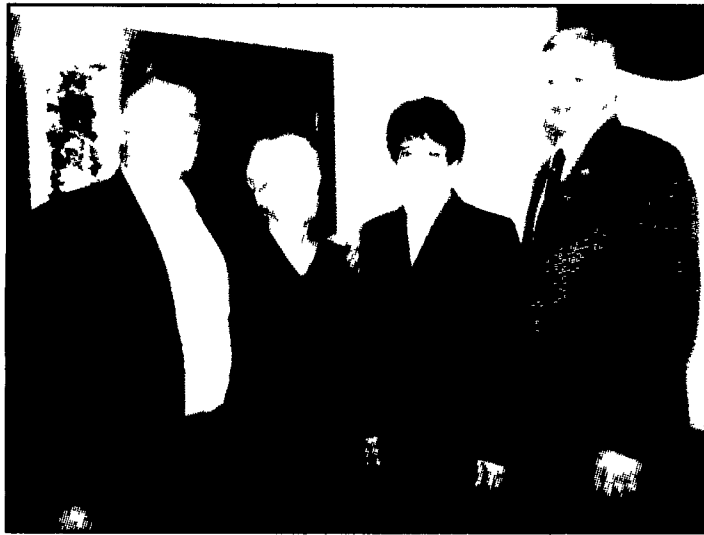
from many spectators. We really wanted win for Mr. Clark. Being a first-year teacher, he had to jump into Mr. Paul's shoes. No one will ever replace Mr. Paul, but Mr. Clark has really been supportive and he's turned a lot of students around." Hartman also won the Keystone Essay Kontest. In 1999, the state officer team introduced the Kontest as a way for Keystone Degree honorees to express in writing what earning a Keystone Degree means to them. Michael S. Brammer, Pennsylvania FFA executive manager, wrote Hartman a letter concerning her essay. A part of

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The demonstration team won first place at the state competition in Harrisburg recently with their presentation, "Life-Saving Knowledge," which included five different CPR procedures. Michael Clark, far left, is FFA adviser. Team members are Jenny Fisher, Rebekah Fox, and Stephanie Hartman. David Bittner, the chapter president and a member of the demonstration team, is absent from photo. Photo by Sandra Lepley, Somerset Co. correspondent

Holstein Association Plans To Host 'New Jersey And You' At National Convention



National Holstein Convention organizers who met last Saturday included, from left, Joe Valen, Judy Bagge, Connie Andrews, and Richard Byma. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor
RINGOES, N.J. — Plans are well under way for the New Jersey Holstein-Friesian Association (NJH-FA) to host the national convention in Atlantic City this summer. The national convention is scheduled Sunday, June 23-Thursday, June 27 at the Taj Mahal Hotel and Casino. "We're at full steam in all of our efforts and things are going very well for us," said national convention chairman Joe Valen, Princeton, N.J. Valen provided updates from all planning committee activities last Saturday at the NJH-FA meeting attended by more than 50 members, fami-

lies, and friends at the Amwell Valley Fire House in Ringoes, N.J. Said Valen, "The National Holstein Convention will provide a unique opportunity for agribusiness representatives to gather with Holstein breeders from around the country in Atlantic City. More than 3,000 are expected to attend this exciting event." The host association, based in Belvidere, N.J., has picked the theme, "New Jersey and You in 2002," adopted from the state's popular tourist slogan, to emphasize the importance of N.J. to the U.S. food-producing industry. The national convention will

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2003 Pa. Farm Show Expands To Eight Days

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — On Wednesday, Gov. Mark Schweiker announced that the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission has extended the Farm Show schedule for January 2003. Schweiker announced next year's Pennsylvania Farm Show will be Jan. 11-18, running for eight days instead of six. He said the commission's decision to extend the Farm Show by two days was largely driven by the anticipated completion of the \$76 million renovation and expansion project at the Farm Show Complex. Schweiker participated in the historic groundbreaking Sept. 27, 2001, putting in motion the largest construction allocation ever made to Pennsylvania's agriculture. "During the past seven years, we've worked hard to provide a 21st century infrastructure and

showcase for Pennsylvania agriculture," Schweiker said. "New construction at the Farm Show Complex is leading the way in accomplishing this goal. The new Expo Center will create additional and greatly needed space for Pennsylvania farmers and agribusinesses to market even more of their products to even more customers." Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes said the refurbished Farm Show Complex will be the largest "under roof" facility of its kind in the country. When completed, total exhibit space will increase from 660,000 to more than one million square feet. The Farm Show Main Exhibit Hall is the largest existing venue in the complex with 145,000 square feet of exhibit space. The new Exposition Hall will more than double the main exhibit area by adding 175,000 square

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