Agriculture Secretary Announces 2003 Farm Show Schedule

ARENA SCHEDULE										
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AFTERNOON	Draft Forse Ha∵er	Dainy Goars	Jr Beef		tievi Event		Dairy Show	Jairy Judges School	
EVENING	Draft Carl	Darry Goats	Beef	Square Dancing	New Event		New Event		

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AFTERNOON	Hred Gilt sale	J* Lamb	Jr Swine	Sale of Champions	Sheep to Shawl	Ji Brendung Sheep	Oper Sheep	Open Sheep
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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes reports that the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission has announced the first schedule components of agriculture events that will be part of the 2003 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Hayes said, "This is a work in progress and will continue to evolve during the ensuing months as we look ahead to next January. This is not just the work of a few people, but rather it is the work of many who are agriculture stakeholders and who exhibit at the Pennsylvania Farm Show."

The agriculture community is looking forward to a much larger Farm Show Complex and is working with the Farm Show staff to develop a schedule for the 2003 exposition. There will be additional schedule announcements in the upcoming months.

The framework and principles that are guiding the staff and exhibitor stakeholders in their schedule development are as follows:

1. Not to require livestock specie groups to stay longer than in the past.

2. Create an environment for dairy and livestock to exhibit additional animals.

3. Make certain that all species of dairy and livestock are present throughout the Farm Show for visitors to observe.

4. Provide opportunities for new breeds of livestock to be exhibited.

5. Create the involvement of light horses.

6. Provided opportunities for new arena events.

7. Increase educational exhibits that are visitor friendly.

8. Enhance youth involvement. 9. Increase Ag-based commercial exhibits.

Hayes said, "One of my goals when I became secretary of agriculture was to upgrade the present Farm Show Complex and construct a large, new addition to the current facility. That goal needed support and financial resources. Our state lawmakers and governors responded to my request for \$76 million for which I am very appreciative. This expansive initiative on behalf of our agriculture community will provided enhanced opportunities for our exhibitors. We will have a world-class Farm Show Complex for our world-class agriculture industry."

The 2003 Pennsylvania Farm Show schedule as it is currently formatted in cooperation with representatives of the agriculture industry and Farm Show staff is included here.

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Drought, Water-Resources Legislation **Topics** In Washington County

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - DEP Secretary David E. Hess discussed current drought conditions and stressed the need for new legislation to protect Pennsylvania's water resources at the Washington County Farm Bureau spring dinner April 16 along with County Commissioner Bracken Burns and a representative of Sen. Tim Murphy.

'Current drought conditions across the state reflect the need for water resources planning to protect and preserve our water resources for the future," said Hess. "DEP is grateful to the county Farm Bureaus for realizing the need for new water resources legislation and taking an active role in preserving this valuable resource.'

With more than 1,700 farms, Washington County is ranked fifth highest in the state for number of farms and number one for sheep and lamb population. Members of the Washington County Farm Bureau were eager to discuss the drought with Hess and talk about other water issues as they impact agricultural production. "Citizens are learning that they cannot separate water quality and water quantity concerns, because they are all bound together in one watershed system," said Hess.

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NORTHWEST			Steer/Angus/Sim Buffalo/ Deer	Stear/Angus/Sim Buffalo/ Deer	Steer/Angus/Sim Buffaio/ Deer	Steer/Angus/Sim Buffalo/ Deer	Steer/Angus/Sim Buffalo/ Deer	Besf Buffalo/Deer	Beef Buffalo/Deer	Beef Buffalo/Deer	Beef Buffalo/Deer
-ORSE BARN			Draft Horses	Draft Horses	Draft Horses	Draft Horses	Pulling Horses	Pulling Ponys	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
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14 Pa. Farms In 8 Counties Approved For Preservation

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes announced that 14 Pennsylvania farms totaling 1,507 acres in eight counties were approved for preservation by the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Board at its April meeting. Since 1989, Pennsylvania has preserved 1,875 farms totaling nearly 226,000 acres — including 90 new farms so far this year totaling 10,668 acres. The goal is to reach the 2002 farms mark in

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2002.

"Our farmland preservation achievements are remarkable examples of teamwork on the part of each county and the state's Bureau of Farmland Preservation," Hayes said. "Through this partnership, Pennsylvania is setting the standard in farmland preservation across the country."

Fifty-three counties participate in the state farmland preservation program. The Commonwealth purchases the development rights, referred to as easements, to preserve Pennsylvania's prime farmland and open space.

In February, Hayes announced that Pennsylvania is investing an additional \$64 million over the next two years to ensure the commonwealth remains the nation's

leader in farmland preservation. Of the \$64 million, the state is investing another \$40 million while Pennsylvania's counties are committing \$24 million — the largest county commitment ever.

A list of farms preserved in April under the Pennsylvania program by county follows:

Berks County

 David and Leah Knauer, North Heidelberg Township.

• E. Daniel and Nancy Leatherman, Perry Township.

Chester County Donald and Kelly Cairns,

Sadsbury Township.

Juniata County

• Elsie Hackenberger, Walker Township.

Lancaster County • Jeffrey and Rose Aungst, West Donegal Township.

 J. Kenneth and Lisa Wiker, Providence Township. Mercer County

Sara, David and John McCullough, Coolspring Township.

Schuylkill County • Donald and Laura Ziegler, Wayne Township.

Wayne County

• Herman Neugebauer, Damascus and Berlin townships.

• Elmer and Barbra Shaffer, Lake and Salem townships.

• Fred and Isabella Williams, Texas Township.

York County

• Kenneth Moore, Fawn Township.

The State Agricultural Land Preservation Board also approved the preservation of two farms totaling 40 acres in Chester and Montgomery counties.