

Farm Show Complex Construction Update



Hon. Samuel E. Hayes Jr.
Pa. Secretary of Agriculture

Building For The Future - On Schedule

NEW CONSTRUCTION EXCITING FOR AGRICULTURE

There is something else that must also be done. That "something else" is a new roof for the existing Farm Show Complex.

While a new roof may not be "exciting," it is very important to protect the investment and to

provide a facility for exhibitors without all of the leaks that have been with us too often for too many years.

There is more good news! Another \$10 million has been gained for the Farm Show project to provide a new roof for the existing facility.

In terms of the new construc-

tion, it can be reported that there are two components that are "zooming" toward an August/September completion. They are the new Large Arena and the new Livestock Barn.

These new venues were part of the "Equine Center" which was contemplated for the PDA Farm that is located near the Department of Agriculture. For a host of very, very practical reasons, I decided it would be best to integrate a barn and a second large arena into the new construction at the Farm Show instead of pursuing a separate Equine Center.

The new Large Arena will be in addition to the current Large Arena, which means we will have two large arenas of world-class dimensions. The new arena will have a floor that measures approximately 300 feet long and 150 feet wide, a little bigger than our current Large Arena floor. There will be seating for 1,700 in the new large arena. Seating in the current Large Arena is approximately 8,000. When construction is completed, there will be two large arenas with a combined seating capacity approaching 10,000.

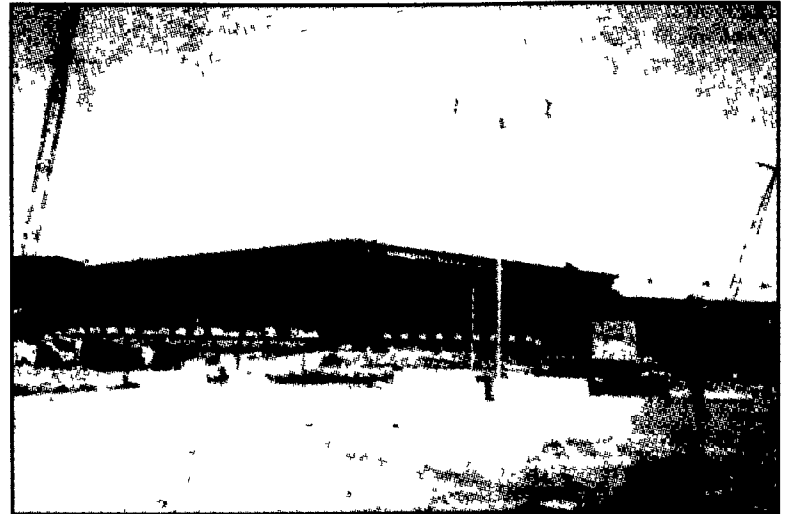
The new livestock barn will be adaptive for various agricultural events. But, as one example, it

will have capacity for 140 horses. The new barn has been designed and positioned on-site in a manner so there can be an expansion of this livestock component in future years.

So "good news" continues at the construction site — \$10 million to provide a new roof for the existing Farm Show Complex and the new arena and new barn are scheduled for early completion in August/September.

Other components of the new construction are still on schedule for November/December.

Ongoing construction at the Farm Show Complex was followed by a groundbreaking ceremony last week for the new PDA Livestock Evaluation Center, which is another Department of Agriculture construction project. Historic construction projects for agriculture — building for the future. That's the mission.



This is a view of recent construction at the new equine arena.

Agriculture Insights

Brent Landis

Agriculture Services Coordinator



The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Phone (717) 397-3531 ext 62
E-mail blandis@lcci.com



GOOD COMMUNICATION MAKES GOOD NEIGHBORS

Robert Frost once said, "Good fences make good neighbors." This famous saying may be true, but if you're a farmer in today's society, you'll want fewer fences and better communication with your neighbors.

The understanding of farming among our neighbors has been diminished significantly from what it was only a generation ago. Taking the first step in improving lines of communication can help ease misunderstandings and begin to strengthen your relation-

ship. I offer a 21st Century view on this age-old quote: "Good communication makes good neighbors."

According to Mike Brubaker, Brubaker Farms, "The key in good neighbor relations is keeping open communication. Encourage your neighbors to come and talk to you about your farm operation."

Another farmer said, "It is important to inform your neighbors about what you do on your farm, but there is a fine line with how much information you share. Be sure to share information that can be understood at the non-farmer level so you do not develop any misunderstandings."

There are a number of things you can do to strengthen communications with your neighbors. It is advisable to include your town-

ship officials in whatever plan you develop.

A simple idea is to hold a summer barbecue. Families love to come out to a farm and enjoy the many aspects of agriculture. Another idea is providing a hay wagon tour of the farm to explain the different features of your farm operation. When opening a new facility on your farm, you could hold an open house for the community.

You can even offer farm produce or products to your neighbors free of charge to allow them to enjoy products grown in their own community. In whatever activity you choose, it is important to point out that the food grown by farmers in the U.S. is the safest and most affordable in the world. The Lancaster Chamber can provide you with the "Lancaster Farming Facts" brochures, free of charge, which do an excellent job of listing the key aspects and benefits of our farming industry.

There are several possible outcomes to consider when analyzing your return in establishing a

community education plan for your neighbors. You are developing a better understanding of your farm operations, while at the same time highlighting the additional benefits of conservation and environmental practices your farm has applied. Groundwater recharge that your open farmland provides, and the aesthetics of the open space in the community.

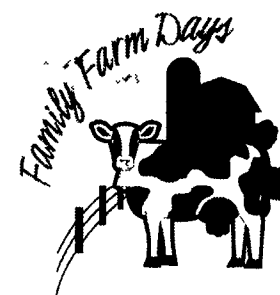
Another thing to consider would be a future expansion plan your farm may have, which could be jeopardized if neighbors had concerns. But by providing them a better understanding of your farm and your management practices and addressing any concerns today, you will help ease possible tensions in the future. You will receive a better peace of mind knowing your neighbors on a first-name basis and forming a relationship with them.

And beyond these possible benefits, you may develop some new friendships from your willingness to get to know your neighbors better.



Family Farm Days, an event sponsored by The Lancaster Chamber and Oregon Dairy, is an excellent opportunity to invite your neighbors to attend to give them an enjoyable perspective of a farm operation. This free event will be June 11-13 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Oregon Dairy Farm. Guests will enjoy a tractor ride tour of Oregon Dairy's modern dairy facility, ice cream and milk samples, informative booths with agricultural facts and product demonstrations, a watershed exhibit, chick hatching and sheep shearing displays, and a chicken barbecue dinner for only \$3. Children's activities will include pony rides, a scavenger hunt, a hay tunnel, and much more. New to this year's event is The Lancaster County Conservation District's "Conservation Expo."

For more information on strengthening communication with your neighbors or Family Farm Days, contact Brent Landis at The Chamber at (717) 397-3531, ext. 134 or blandis@lcci.com or visit www.lancaster-chamber.com.



Get your milk mustache ready for summer and bring the whole family to celebrate Dairy Month!

Oregon Dairy Farm Market

June 11-13, 2002

11 AM - 7 PM



www.lancaster-chamber.com (717) 397-3531



2300 Oregon Pike (717) 656-2854 (Located 5 miles N. of Lancaster, PA Rt 272) www.oregondairy.com

Family Farm Days Events
Presented by The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Oregon Dairy

- Enjoy a FREE tractor wagon ride and informational tour from the store to the farm (weather permitting)
- Sample FREE ice cream and milk at the farm
- Watch the dairy cows being milked daily 2-5 PM
- See the sheep shearing Wed only 12 2 4 6 PM
- Visit these special exhibits: "A Day in the Life of a Cow" Chick hatching display The Lancaster Conservation District's "Conservation Expo" including an endoscope, soil pit and stream study
- See the white tailed deer (if we're lucky, there might be a spotted fawn!)
- Bring the kids to explore the straw tunnel and pony rides from 4 - 7 PM
- Go on a scavenger hunt to learn more about a farm and receive a free sundae coupon
- Enjoy a delicious chicken barbecue dinner for only \$3.00
- Don't forget your camera to capture the memories

