

National Holstein Convention

(Continued from Page A30)

- Battleship New Jersey and the Aquatic Museum in Camden.
- A half-day tour of dolphin watching in the Atlantic and a three-hour cruise.
- Party boat fishing tour all day.
- A historic tour of the Trenton battlefields and Princeton

- College.
- Farm and commodity tours include:
- Atlantic Blueberry, Atlantic County.
 - Rutgers Blueberry-Cranberry Research Center.
 - Equine horse training and Showplace Farm and Cedar Lane Farm.
 - Cape May fisheries.

- Vegetable producers, including Shepherd Farms and others, along with the host association barbecue at Cedar Lane, Oldwick, N.J.
- Spouse's program events include a bus trip to Cape May with lunch at the Lafayette Hotel and a walk to popular shopping areas.

According to Valen, a "dairy bar" will be established with various dairy and New Jersey-vegetable related products, including ice cream, milk, grapes, cheese, and others. Valen said volunteers are needed to staff the dairy bar and processors are urgently needed. Valen asked members to write down the dealers and processors they know, "whoever you do business with, and get me that information." Valen can be reached at (732) 568-0219.

Richard Byma, president of the NJH-FA, Sussex, N.J., spoke about plans for the national sale, which will include 75 entries and 40 for the silent auction.

"We are trying to showcase all of New Jersey," said Valen, who noted there is "so much more to New Jersey than Atlantic City."

Planning for the convention began seven years ago. The Taj Mahal can just to fit the large convention, he noted. About 55 booths were sold, and booth space was officially sold out. Lancaster Farming plans to exhibit at and report extensively about the convention.

Sponsorships include various levels, such as Diamond, \$40,000 and up; Gold, \$10,000 and up; Silver, \$5,000 and more; Bronze, \$2,500 and more; and donors, at least \$1,000.

Special technical sessions at the convention were scheduled to include the effects of nutrients on reproduction and embryo transfer, vaccines to help treat Johnes, and others.

Recognized with awards for juniors will be the champion Dairy Bowl team (last year they received \$205,000 in scholarship money). At the senior level, the Outstanding Distinguished Young Breeder Award, for farm managers/owners under 40 years old, will be presented. Also, a premier breeder family will be rewarded for herd genetic accomplishments.

At last year's convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, about 300 visitors to the NJF-HA booth in the trade show enjoyed the

theme, "Some of New Jersey's Finest," noted Valen. Last year's sale included about 1,500 people. The sale this year is scheduled Wednesday evening at the convention. A banquet will conclude the convention Thursday.

New Jersey has been noted as the "cradle" of the dairy industry. Brown Swiss were first bred in the garden state, as well as the Guernsey and Jersey.

Jersey cattle were brought into the ports, and the state was the Jersey cattle leader for many years. Valen said artificial breeding began in the 1940s in the state, with the New Jersey Cooperative Artificial Breeding Association.

Scheduled is a reception with National Holstein President Joann Hartman, Waterloo, Ill. General sessions will be conducted midweek, with the luncheon and banquet at the end of the week. The Outstanding Young Farmer Award will be presented at the general session Thursday. The banquet will be a "wrap-up" event, a chance to renew friendships.

The convention will provide attendees from around the country with message that New Jersey is "alive, vibrant, an exciting place with a healthy ag industry," said Valen, "and a fun place to visit."

The association still needs volunteers to sign up in almost every facet of the convention schedule.

But Valen assured members at the meeting in January that "you are going to be really pleased from a financial standpoint that we did this," he said.

NEW JERSEY CONTACTS

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Adult and Junior Convention Headquarters:
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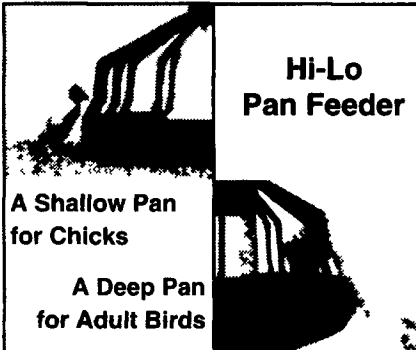
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