

Horses The Focus At Ag Progress' 'Equine Experience'



Icelandic horses were one of the breed demonstrations that were conducted at "The Equine Experience."

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Visitors who wound their way through the busyness of Ag Progress Days to the Horse Arena were educated about several unique horse breeds, treated to horse performances, and taught about ownership and management of the equine animal.

Dubbed "The Equine Experience," the program featured the American Quarter Horse Association's (AQHA) 4aHORSE Test Ride, which allowed the public to ride horses throughout the duration of Ag Progress Days.

Another highlight of The Equine Experience was the clinics conducted outside of the arena. Program topics included nutrition, management, equine

dentistry, preventative veterinary care, selection of the proper horse, and horse behavior.

The program was conducted by Penn State, AQHA, the Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association (PQHA) and other breed and industry groups.

Tuesday's events featured Friesian, Haflinger, Icelandic and other breed clinics, a working sheep dog demonstration, and performances by the Keystone Dressage and Combined Training Drill Team and the Pennsylvania State Police Mounted Patrol. Brian Egan, extension program associate in the department of dairy and animal science,

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Lebanon Marks 6,000 Acres Preserved

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Lebanon celebrated the preservation of 6,000 acres of farmland this week.

Approximately 60 officials and farm families gathered for a ceremony at the E. Faye Bowman farm. The 105-acre farm is the 55th agricultural conservation easement purchased or donated in the county. There is a waiting list of 50 more farms — a total of 6,665 acres — waiting to be preserved.

Timothy Sheffey, Ag Preservation chairperson, opened the event by giving the deed of easement to Bowman for her signature.

"Without any question, Lebanon County is making history," said Agriculture Secretary Sam

Hayes. "Without the preservation of farms such as the Bowman's farm, Pennsylvania couldn't be recognized as having the nation's best farmland preservation program," he said.

"One of America's great strategic strengths is the ability to produce our own food and fiber, and we need citizens willing to preserve that," said Hayes.

"It's a team effort. It's not just dependent upon farm families but

also the preserve board and lawmakers," he said. "Lots of times we hear about budgets being enacted in Harrisburg, but we don't talk about the good things that are happening in appropriations."

Bowman was presented with checks from local and state sources during the ceremony.

Robin Heard, USDA NRCS state conservationist, thanked the Bowmans for the significant donation of preserving their farm. The Bowmans, she said, are conservation-minded in other ways, as the land is no-tilled, the stream is fenced in, and buffers are planted on the property, which the Bowmans rent out for crop production.

"They are not just producing food and fiber but clean air and water," she said.

Sue Bowman, daughter of E.

Faye Bowman, spoke on behalf of the family. "This is a very exciting and long-awaited day for us," she said. The event celebrated not only the preservation of land but also "history and a way of life," she said. The Bowmans began the preservation process in spring 1999.

"Before the farm family becomes more of an endangered species than it already is, we need to acknowledge that there are more important things for the quality of life than money," he said.

According to Commissioner William Carpenter, Lebanon County ranks number nine in the state — out of 67 counties — in farmland preservation rate.

For more information on the farmland preservation program call (717) 272-3908 ext. 4.



E. Faye and Sue Bowman accept an aerial photograph of the newly-preserved Bowman farm from Timothy Sheffey, Ag Preservation chairperson.

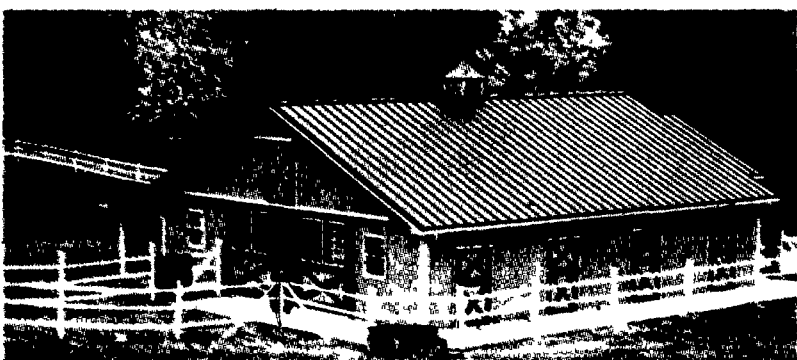
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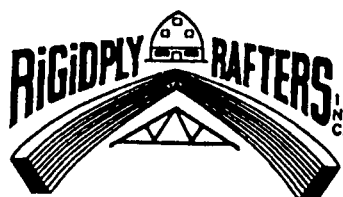
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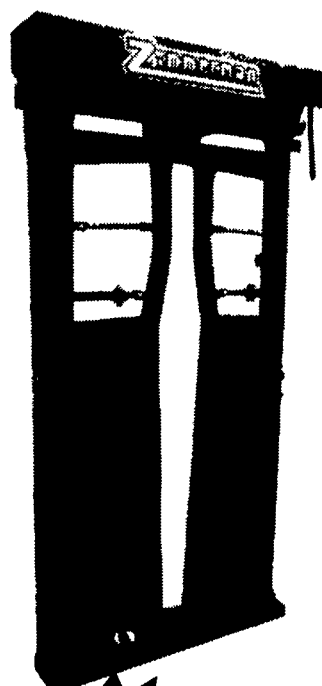


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