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Gov. Schweiker Introduces New Farm Show Complex Additions, New Construction To Renew Roots Of Agriculture At Farm Show

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — It's the season of giving, and the state has given big.

To the tune of about \$86 million, Pennsylvania has "put our financial support where our emotional outlook and pride are," said Gov. Mark Schweiker.

Along with State Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes Jr., on Tuesday morning Schweiker hoisted up a large pair of scissors and cut the ribbon to a new era in state farm shows — expansion and new construction of a brand-new Farm Show Complex that makes it the "number one exposition facility in the nation," Schweiker said.

In front of more than 1,000 farm show contractors, workers, friends and family in the new Exhibit Hall, Schweiker, assisted by whom he calls "Coach Hayes," dedicated the new Farm Show Complex to the "number one industry in the state — farming and agribusiness," Schweiker noted.

On Tuesday, the hall housed new farm equipment and entertainment by two dozen members of the Biglerville High School Jazz Band.

Schweiker remarked about the importance of Farm Show before cutting the yellow ribbon, inscribed with "Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Historic Construction Farm Show Complex 2002."

Hayes also noted that the governor "has always said 'yes' to agriculture. Always." Hayes noted his own work with the legislature and the members of the Farm Show Commission, including Farm Show Director Dennis Grumbine and staff. They provided a "vision to make it possible," Hayes said, "to build this magnificent addition."

Hayes noted that Schweiker was "here to celebrate what you and I have dreamt about for

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With scissors in hand, Gov. Mark Schweiker, right, along with Sam Hayes Jr., state secretary of agriculture, usher in a new era of Farm Show during ribbon-cutting ceremonies Tuesday morning in the new Exhibit Hall at the Farm Show Complex. About a thousand people at-

tended. More information about who built the Farm Show, as well as a history of the Farm Show itself, is scheduled for the Showcase Issue on Jan. 4 in *Lancaster Farming*. Look for more information on the Farm Show schedule itself next issue. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

With New Chief, National Holstein Association Reports Turnaround

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW CUMBERLAND (Cumberland Co.) — Holstein USA officers are reporting a major boost in the organization's financial status as CEO John Meyer entered his second year at the helm in 2002.

Tom Nunes, Holstein USA vice president from California, spoke to about 40 members and delegates at a Region 2 meeting in New Cumberland Tuesday.

"We're not out of the woods yet," Nunes said. While 2001 saw operating losses of \$2.3 million, year-end projections for 2002 show losses will total about

\$500,000 — an improvement of \$1.8 million over last year.

Record-low milk prices, along with the continued decline in registered Holstein numbers across the country, have created extra challenges in securing a sound fiscal future for Holstein USA.

Since Meyer took over as CEO in July of 2001, belt-tightening measures have included cutting 12 staff positions down to a total of 150 personnel, lowering insurance claims, reducing staff and board member travel, consolidating staff into one building, and reducing advertising and printing expenses.

The financial turnaround came after Holstein USA recorded \$15.5 million in cumulative operating losses during the 1990s, a

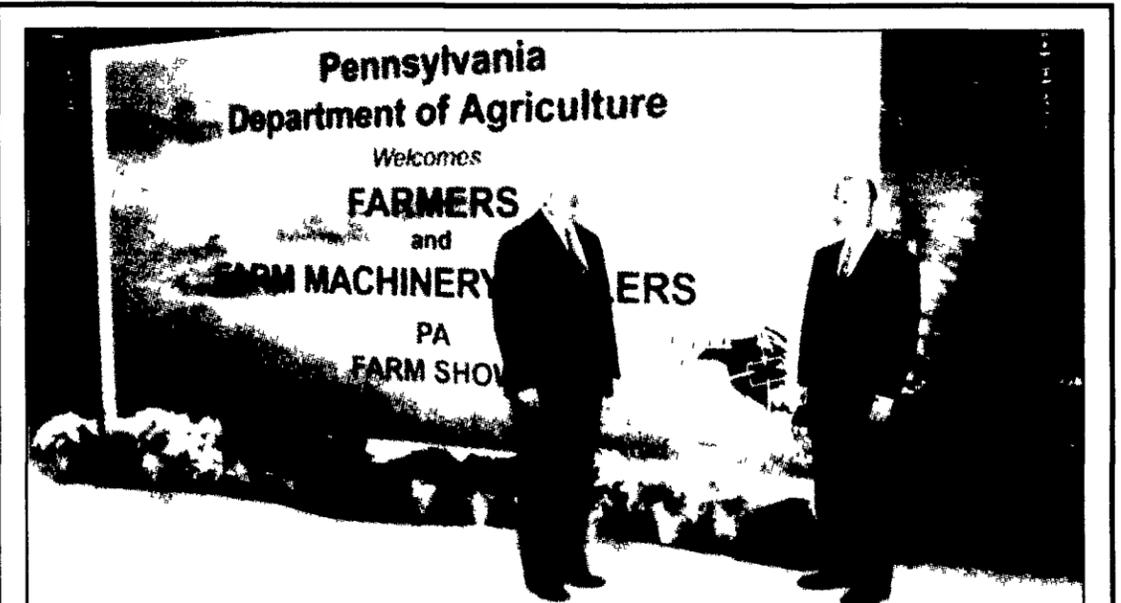
decade in which it "leaned heavily on its reserve fund" while
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Herd Health Focus Of Lancaster Pork Council Meeting

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — "When we talk about production, all of us have a favorite number — what is significant for

your operation — but I'll bet that none of you would say that that number is non-productive sow days," said Max Rodibaugh, a
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Farm Show Director Dennis Grumbine, left, and Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes opened the new Farm Show Complex, with a focus on farmers and farm machinery, at Tuesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony. Turn to page A36 to read about equipment demonstrations set for Monday and Tuesday of Farm Show week, Jan. 11-18.