

Gov. Schweiker Introduces New Farm Show Complex

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that defines Pennsylvania farm life and farmers." The additions and new construction provide "a compelling commercial that we send to the global marketplace so that good products and good relationships come to Pennsylvania."

The Farm Show Complex is a partner with the host city of Harrisburg with the economic well-being of the city in mind. The complex brings about \$480 million in business to the city. "We constitute, to a great extent, the economic well-being of the midstate," he said.

Schweiker unveiled a ceremonial plaque during the morning ceremonies.

Schweiker was joined on the podium by Kelly Powell Logan, secretary for the Department of General Services; Merle Ryan, deputy secretary of public works; Jacqueline Pratt, Pennsylvania Fair Queen; Dave Bittner, state FFA president; and Dennis Grumbine, Farm Show director.

Afterward, Schweiker went on a sightseeing tour of the facility with members of the press and General Assembly. Along the way, he was greeted in the Equine Arena with various coach, horse, and

livestock displays; to the new horse barn; and through the spine to various other locations, including the new Banquet Hall.

Along the way, Schweiker made many comments.

"There aren't enough superlatives," he said to the entourage about the beauty of the new construction. Schweiker turned to Rep. Art Hershey (R-13) and said, "What do you think, Art?"

Hershey replied, "Amazing."

A new expo hall, another large arena, a new livestock barn, a two-tier concourse that connects the new construction with the existing facility, and upgrades that have brought changes to the small arena, the previous family living center, and a 4-H and FFA dormitory are all part of the massive project that adds 360,000 square feet to what was an already a big complex. And for the first time, the Farm Show Complex will have air conditioned venues so it is a 21st century facility that will attract expositions in all seasons of the year.

The new expo hall of 175,000 square feet becomes the largest venue within the sprawling complex, providing additional space to accommodate nation-leading agricultural events and any array of other events.

The new large arena joins the

existing large arena to establish the Farm Show Complex as a leader facility for cattle and equine expositions on the North American continent. The new large arena has a floor that measures approximately 300 feet long and 150 feet wide, with accompanying seating for 1,700 spectators.

The new livestock barn adds to the complement of current and new venues that make it possible for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to host some of the largest international livestock expositions to include the All-American Dairy Show, Keystone International Livestock Exposition, and the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.

The two-tier concourse will provide convenient passage for visitors and exhibitors from the new venues to those that already exist. The lower concourse will be for the movement of livestock, their handlers and vendors. The upper concourse will be for pedestrian traffic moving through the complex.

In addition to the construction of new components, the project has brought about modernization upgrades to current areas within the Farm Show Complex.

The former Family Living Center has been transformed into an exhibition and conference cen-

ter that provides over 30,000 square feet of upgraded space that will accommodate modern shows and conventions. A new kitchen and seating area will make it possible for shows to have a new cafeteria and the opportunity to host dinners for up to 1,500 guests.

The current Small Arena has had a major facelift that replaced bleacher seats with individual arena seats. Also, the auction block as been rebuilt. And, a new feature is the construction of three "sky boxes" that will provide convenient and comfortable hospitality areas during the conduct of events in the Small Arena.

The former cafeteria has been transformed into a dormitory for 4-H and FFA members who are attending multiple-day activities at the Farm Show Complex and need overnight accommodations. When not used as a youth dormitory, this upgraded area can be used as a business center for exhibitors.

Resources also have been made available for a new roof to shelter and protect the current complex.

"Our vision was to build for the future and to provide Pennsylvania agricultural community with a world-class exposition complex that will make it possi-



A display model of the complex greets visitors to the New Foyer at the Farm Show Complex.

ble to showcase the great work of our people and the leadership role they play here at home, across the nation and around the world," Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes said. "We have achieved our goals."

The Department of General Services is responsible for public works projects sponsored by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and coordinated the project for the Department of Agriculture. Reynolds Construction did the design and construction work for the project.

Complete information about the construction and Farm Show schedule is scheduled next week, again in the *Lancaster Farming Farm Show Showcase* Section Jan. 4, and also in the Farm Show Issue Jan. 11.

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Gov. Mark Schweiker unveils the new commemorative plaque for the Farm Show construction.

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