

Agriculture Moves Ahead In 2002

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ville, Augusta County, drew enough attendance on the first day to exceed that of both days at its previous venue. More than 120 exhibitors were at the show.

A harbinger of things to come, DEP secretary David Hess signed a drought emergency proclamation for 24 counties.

The Trucker Quality Assurance (TQA) program, designed specifically for hog transporters, was formally put into action as officials announced April as the beginning of certification classes.

March

Sam Hayes, agriculture secretary, announced that Pennsylvania and its counties will invest \$64 million in 2002 to preserve farmland.

The annual Pennsylvania Draft Horse Sale featured sale averages that were up in almost every category. Buyers came from 19 different states to purchase Belgian, Percheron and Haflinger horses.

According to a feasibility study, south-central Pennsylvania ethanol project had the "qualifications to move forward," said the study, which assessed nine possible sites.

At the end of February, the 90-day departure from average precipitation in three of Pennsylvania's 67 counties was greater than 45 percent below average and, in 22 counties, fell between 35 and 45 percent below average. Record low flows at streamflow stations and water levels at observation wells occurred in February.

avian influenza (A.I.) and disposing of the flocks.

June

A groundbreaking team gathered at Rockspring, Centre County, to begin construction of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's new Livestock Evaluation Center.

In honor of June Dairy Month, a 90-gallon ice cream sundae, created by Pennsylvania dairy princesses, drew a crowd to the capitol building steps.

Penn State announced an economic impact study of the Pennsylvania equine industry beginning fall 2002.

Ag Secretary Sam Hayes introduced the Great Lakes Forum on Agriculture, a three-day event.

Julie Sollenberger, Spring City, Chester County, became National Guernsey Queen.

U.S. Ag Secretary Ann Veneman an-

nounces the authorization to hire an additional 1,000 employees to expedite implementing the Farm Bill.

Atlantic City, New Jersey, was the site of the 2002 National Holstein Convention. Officials expected 3,00 attendees for the

national sale, youth convention, and tours. The sale averaged \$8,207. Holstein Association delegates also took action on several bylaw amendments.

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One of 2002's top stories was the widespread drought. This picture was taken in Columbia County. Photo by Dave Lefever



Although drought threatened, flowers still came to tell of us spring. This shot was taken at Hershey Gardens, Hershey. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

April

New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, dedicated the new Fairchild Aquaculture Laboratory.

Pennsylvania's three largest agriculture organizations — the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, PennAg Industries Association, and the Pennsylvania State Grange — gathered for a rally at the capitol to call attention to several agriculture issues.

The Conococheague FFA, James Buchanan High School, won the Hoard's Dairyman Cow Judging Contest, topping 412 FFA chapters from across the U.S.

One hundred people were inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame during the National 4-H Conference. The hall of fame, existing only on the internet, was created as part of the 4-H Centennial celebration.

May

After nearly two months of negotiations, U.S. House and Senate conferees agreed on a national Farm Bill. Shortly thereafter, President Bush signed the Farm Bill into law. The bill included increased farmland preservation funds and boosted conservation and price support measures, among other changes.

Also in May, Gov. Mark Schweiker extended the drought emergencies in 20 Pennsylvania counties.

After extensively battling with the disease, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, along with the Virginia poultry industry, announced the institution of new procedures for depopulating poultry flocks infected with



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