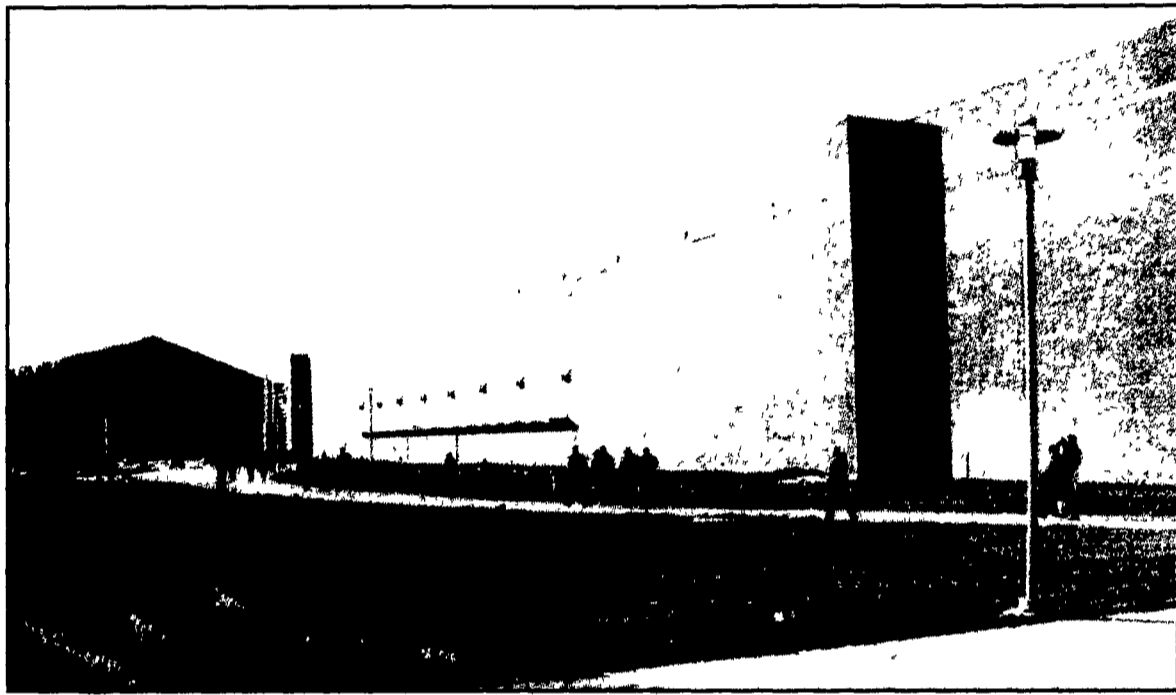


Section E • Saturday, January 4, 2003

# Pa.'s Bigger, Better Farm Show Complex: Long Overdue, Well Worth The Wait



About 1,000 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremonies in the Exhibit Hall at the newly constructed and vastly renovated Farm Show Complex in mid-December. They included farmers, FFA members, agribusiness owners, educators, and legislators — many of whom will benefit from the millions spent to showcase Pennsylvania's number 1 industry. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
*Editor*  
**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — Take a look at the new, improved version of Farm Show here in Pennsylvania's capitol.

But before you gaze on upgrades and new construction amounting to about \$90 million — before you wonder about just  
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## Farm Show Complex Construction Update



Hon. Samuel E. Hayes Jr.  
*Pa. Secretary of Agriculture*

## Building For The Future — On Schedule

*Editor's note: Written by Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. exclusively for Lancaster Farming, this final "Building For The Future" column provides insights into the exciting new construction recently completed at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Lancaster Farming offers its sincerest thanks to Secretary Hayes for making much of this possible. It was a grand ribbon-cutting*

ceremony with hundreds and hundreds of aggies from across Pennsylvania. Steel. Concrete. Blocks. Bricks. Glass. All crafted into new and upgraded venues. Approximately 25 acres and more than 1 million square feet of exhibitor space. All under one roof. On budget. On time. Ready for the Pennsylvania Farm Show beginning next Saturday. A massive expo hall of world-  
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## Officials Honor Contractors

**DAVE LEFEVER**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*  
**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — It took a lot of teamwork to build the new Farm Show Complex. A total of 54 major firms, plus numerous subcontractors, joined together to design, excavate,

build, plumb, wire, and equip the new complex. On the day of the ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 17, Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes and Secretary of General Services Kelly Logan joined Farm Show Director Dennis Grumbine in honoring this formidable design

and construction team, managed by Reynolds Building Partners of Harrisburg. Hayes praised the group for what they have accomplished "miraculously in the last few months."  
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## Artwork Heralds Agriculture At The Pennsylvania Farm Show

**MICHELLE KUNJAPPU**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*  
**GLADWYNE** — (Montgomery Co.) Visitors will not miss the large farm scene displayed prominently in the New Foyer at the Farm Show this year.

A mural, made up of 20 panels 8 feet wide by 10 feet high, will sound loud and clear the message of the Farm Show: the importance of agriculture. "Pennsylvania is fantastic for an artist. There is a great opportunity to portray the history of farming techniques, because they're still being used," said the mural's artist, Max Mason, Wynnewood. "That gave me the idea to show the span from the past to the future," which appears on the mural from the left to the right. "Because it (the mural) is so long, you have a narrative quality with it," he said.

One part of that narrative is the winter scene on the left side that warms to spring, summer in the center of the mural, and finally autumn's harvest scenes on the right. A further aspect of the narrative is the early-morning scene, which grows to full daylight in the center and setting sun on the right. The center of the mural, with a young woman leading a cow and a farm family in the background, highlights man's relationship with each other, with animals, and with cultivated plants, according to Mason. "There's always something interesting to discover since it's so big. There is a lot of things going on simultaneously," he said. The cast concrete animals painted on the brick walls on either end of the mural are a design taken directly from the out-

side of the original Farm Show building. These concrete animals transition into the landscape as they are not only on the brick wall but also are seen among the trees at the edges of the mural. "I borrowed heavily from what was already existing on the building," he said. "I felt it was important to respect that and also to have a sense of continuity." Although the mural does borrow from history, it is very much contemporary, as evidenced by the farmer talking on a cell phone on the tractor and the 2003 Farm Show hat worn by another character. The mural's river, patterned after the Susquehanna, is characterized by "the wide, slow-moving quality that the Susquehanna has," he said. The river leads the eye back to the parallel ridges of  
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Artist Max Mason stands with a completed panel of the mural that will hang in the New Foyer of the Farm Show Complex. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu