Farm Show Facts

(Continued from Page E6)

The Farm Show sponsors an International Day. The international guests are invited to come and sample Pennsylvania Agriculture. In 2002 there were more than 224 representatives from more than 71 different countries. In 2002 the Pennsylvania Farm Show conducted the 6th annual Pennsylvania Wine Competition.

In 2002 the Pennsylvania Farm Show conducted the fourth annual Juried Art Exposition to benefit the Farm Show Scholarship Foundation.

A new program, Link-To-Learn, was introduced at the 2001 Farm Show. This program enabled rural school districts to experience the Farm Show from their classroom. Through Link-To-Learn, schools with teleconferencing capabilities were able to communicate with individuals in the Family Learning and Agricultural Learning Center. In 2001, the Farm Show expanded the Link-To-Learn into a Teleconferencing Center.

One of the growing attractions is the Pennsylvania Marketplace. The Pennsylvania Marketplace features a variety of Pennsylvania companies promoting their own snack foods, candy, spices processed meats, condiments, and beverages through sales and sampling.

General Complex operation includes 348 full- and part-time, represented by three different unions. The Complex is staffed 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. A 10-member Farm Show Commission establishes policy for the Complex.

The Farm Show executive director heads operation of the Complex.

The Complex is host to more than 200 events and houses a professional indoor soccer team. the Harrisburg Heat.

As one of the most utilized facilities in the nation, the Complex generates business that amounts to more than \$480 million of economic impact to the capitol region annually and creates more than 4,200 full- or part-time jobs.

The 2003 Pennsylvania Farm Show is scheduled for Jan. 11-18. Tentative hours of operation for the Pennsylvania Farm Show are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. The show closes at 4 p.m. on the last day.

For additional Complex details, call Deb Trump, commercial exhibits coordinator, at (717) 787-5373 or e-mail dtrump@state.pa.us.

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Pa. Farm Bureau Highlights Agriculture Issues Of 2001-2002 General Assembly

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The 2001-2002 General Assembly acted on issues vitally important to agriculture, including the following measures highlighted by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB):

• Water Resources Planning -Legislation was sent to the governor that commits the state to develop a plan for managing its water resources. The measure sets a multi-year planning process in motion. It does not include any requirements for water-usage permits or regulations. The legislation includes many of Farm Bureau's water policy goals. (H.B. 2302)

• Loans for Capital Projects -A measure was approved that provides low-interest farm loans for land, buildings and equipment under the Small Business First program. (Acts 115 & 120)

Farmland Preservation Funding — A budget oversight was corrected to allow the state to complete its five-year \$100 million "Growing Greener" funding commitment to farmland preservation. (S.B. 1528)

• Lawsuit Abuse Reform -Legislation reformed Pennsylvania's legal system to cut down on "lawsuit lottery" whereby attorneys go after defendants for huge settlements no matter how much a defendant is actually at fault.

• Crop Insurance Subsidies — State funding was continued to help farmers pay crop insurance premiums. (Act 7A)

• Veterinary Care — Farm Bureau played a watchdog role in making sure that legislation updating the state's veterinary practice law would not prevent farmers from treating their own animals. (H.B. 1742)

• Ag Research and Extension Funding — While the final budget did not provide needed increases for ag research and extension programs, a five percent spending cut originally proposed by the Governor was prevented.

 Farm Truck Restrictions Legislation was corrected which would have reduced the 25-mile travel radius to 10 miles for some farm exempt trucks. (H.B. 2410)

• Expanded Pesticide Regulations - Farm Bureau worked to make sure that legislation requiring student and parental notification about pesticide spraying at schools does not impose any new restrictions on farmers. (Act 36)

• Sunday Hunting — Several bills were stopped which would have established Sunday hunting.

• Game Land Management — Legislation was derailed that would have directed the Game Commission to maximize wildlife populations on game lands. (H.B.

• Water Well Regulation -Legislation was stopped that would not have provided adequate funding for the closing of abandoned water wells. (H.B.

"Our biggest disappointment was the House of Representatives failure to vote on Senate Bill 1413 which would have enabled farmers to recover legal fees if a court finds that a township knowingly violated the law when adopting a local ordinance regulating agriculture," said Guy F. Donaldson, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

'You can be sure Farm Bureau will expand its campaign to achieve an acceptable outcome," said the statewide leader.

More information about these and other issues can be obtained at www.pfb.com. Go to the PFB Legislative Update in the "Legislative Resources" section.

American Hereford Association Launches Two New EPDs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The American Hereford Association (AHA) announces the compilation and release of two new economically relevant calving ease Expected Progeny Differences

The intent of these EPDs is to better describe for commercial producers what they might expect from their purebred Hereford bull purchases. The new EPD trait categories were introduced in August.

The traits, Calving Ease Direct (CEd) and Calving Ease Maternal (CEm), take into consideration both birth-weight and calving-ease scores to predict a bull's ability to sire easy calving offspring and/or the ability for a sire's daughters to calve easily.

CEd deals with the sire himself, and describes in percentage points how much easier (+) or more difficult (-) one can expect births by a sire to be on the average. For instance, a CEd of 8 would indicate that one should expect the calves by that sire to calve easier than the breeds average sire 8 percent of the time, when viewed over a population of

Likewise, CEm expresses differences in the calving ease of a sires daughters over a population. A CEm of -3 would indicate that one should expect the daughters of a particular sire to have 3 percent greater than breed average difficulty at their first calving time.

The ability of AHA to make CEd and CEm predictions is backed up by data compiled on more than two million head of Herefords.

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