

'Illustrated Cow' Sculpture Pays Tribute To Farm Show

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includes a portrait of Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes.

The cow, supported by a steel armature that took two men four and a half days to weld, was sculpted from butter to represent the wide variety of ag activities and competition at the 87th Farm Show.

Said Victor, "It's a very large cow," he noted. "Dairy farmers take their cows very seriously." Victor said he tried to stay true to detail, but apologizes if he has missed anything. He told the more than 100 people assembled at the unveiling Thursday morning, "I hope you'll be forgiving."

Victor created his first butter sculpture at the 1995 Pennsylvania Farm Show with the theme: the anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge of World War II.

For this year's show, Victor began sculpting the butter in late December. He spent about 10 days creating the tribute.

The dairy industry, noted Sam Hayes, state secretary of agriculture, makes up 40 percent of the entire number one industry — agriculture — in the state. The cow represents more than 600,000 cows across the state and more than 9,000 dairy farmers. "The cow represents agriculture in its largest sense and its magnificence," Hayes said.

The butter sculpture is a "timely tribute to the new facilities and traditional activities at the Farm Show Complex," said Laura England, director of communications for Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association.

England noted the sculpture has been a tradition for more than 12 years. "It demonstrates how dairy farmers and dairy pro-

cessors are working together to bolster dairy's image."

David Noss, vice chairman of the association, noted that dairy is Pennsylvania's number one agricultural industry.

During Thursday morning's ceremony on the south end of the complex, at the McClay Lobby entrance (the former Main Lobby), Hayes and Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Raechel Kilgore spoke of the important role dairy producers play in Pennsylvania agriculture.

Kilgore noted the dairy industry represented \$1.5 billion in the state in 2000, making milk the state's "official beverage," she said.

The state is the fourth highest producing dairy state in the nation.

This is the 11th year that Land

O'Lakes has donated the butter for the sculpture. Land O'Lakes, a farmer-owned cooperative, represents more than 2,000 Pennsylvania dairy producers.

The butter was manufactured in Carlisle from local dairy producers. An exhibit adjacent to the sculpture showcases how butter is made at the Carlisle plant. Included is a 12-minute video that takes visitors to the exhibit from a farm where the milk is produced, through he receiving area at the plant, and into the processing facilities.

"Our members have been among the exhibitors and visitors to the Farm Show who have kept (the sculpture) popular over the years," noted Chuck Cruickshank, director of procurement, member services and transportation for Land O'Lakes. "We're

excited to see the newly expanded Farm Show Complex and look forward to being a part of the Farm Show, which is an excellent medium for showcasing Pennsylvania agriculture to both rural and urban folks in the commonwealth."

Land O'Lakes cooperative posts annual sales of \$6 billion, with business in 50 states and more than 50 countries.

At the unveiling, music was provided by the Biglerville High School Jazz Band under the direction of Jamie Cope.

The butter sculpture is sponsored annually by American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Mid East, Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, and Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association on behalf of the state's dairy farmers.

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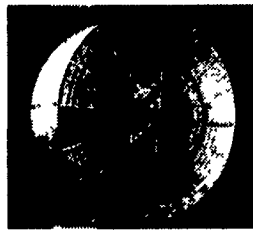
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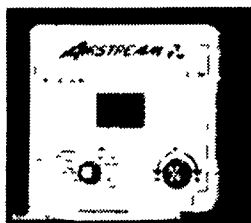
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