

Farm Show Celebrates Innovations, Tradition

Large Turnout Expected At Renovated Complex

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tons of steel, and 13,500 cubic yards of concrete — enough to build a sidewalk four feet wide and 50 miles long — were used in the new construction, according to Bradley Lambertsen, one of the architects who helped design the new facilities.

Grumbine said the Farm Show staff has been scrambling to work out all the logistics of bringing together hundreds of exhibitors, farm machinery, and several thousand head of livestock under the new venue.

"It's about like setting up the Farm Show for the first time," Grumbine said. "I don't know what that was like, but I'm sure it was a tremendous undertaking."

The principles that have made the Farm Show such a longstanding and popular tradition in the state, though, are still the major purpose of the event, according to Grumbine.

"We're not putting on a 'show' here," he said. "We're just caretakers of an institution. The Farm Show has tremendous value to the rural communities of Pennsylvania."

Sam Hayes, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture and instrumental in the Farm Show renovations, promised guests that Pennsylvania's strong agricultural heritage would continue to be upheld at the new complex.

"Since the inception of the Farm Show in 1917, the Department of Agriculture and the Farm Show Commission have remained true to their charge of exhibiting the latest agricultural technology, equipment, and other agricultural needs to keep Pennsylvania agriculture strong," Hayes said.

In December, Gov.

Schweiker joined Hayes, the state Farm Show Commission, and friends of Pennsylvania agriculture to cut the ribbon on the new construction and renovation of the Farm Show Complex.

This investment in Pennsylvania agriculture will provide the complex with more than a million square feet of combined, all-weather, under-roof exhibitor space. The edifice includes a new Exposition Hall measuring 175,000 square feet, a second large arena, and another livestock barn. A new two-tier concourse connects this new structure to the current Complex.

New agricultural features at the 2003 Farm Show include:

- **Farmer Days.** To celebrate Pennsylvania's leading agriculture industry, Monday, Jan. 13 through Wednesday Jan. 15 have been designated "Farmer Days." During these three days, farm equipment manufacturers will host seminars and conduct equipment demonstrations in the Large Arena periodically throughout the day. The new Expo Hall will be reserved exclusively for farm equipment. All major manufacturers will be exhibiting at the Farm Show to give Pennsylvania farmers the opportunity to see the latest technologically advanced equipment.

- **The Sale of Champions** will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 9 a.m. in the Small Arena (now called the Sale Arena), followed by the awarding of Farm Show Scholarships at 10 a.m., and then the sale of the market swine, steers, lambs, and goats. Champion animals will be placed on display after the sale in the North Building in the Champion Row

exhibit, featuring the grand and reserve champion market animals in the beef, lamb, swine, and goat species, and will also recognize the owners and buyers of these winning animals.

- **Expanded Agriculture Machinery Displays.** Located in the new Exposition Hall, expanded machinery displays will provide farmers and agribusinesses an opportunity to speak with major machinery dealers about their equipment needs.

- **Horticultural Center.** "Pennsylvania Produce — Simply Delicious" will be on display along with other special features in the new Horticultural Center.

- **New horse skill events.** A longtime favorite activity of Farm Show is to watch the demonstration teamwork and skill between horse and rider. In addition to the long-time favorite equine events at the farm show, several new events have joined the schedule to include flag racing, team penning, and a more detailed pleasure horse demonstration to illustrate the values of each horse and the breed qualities when considering the purchase of a horse.

- **First Frontier Circuit Finals Rodeo.** This top-notch professional rodeo will conduct events Thursday, Jan. 16 through Saturday Jan. 18. This rodeo is recognized as a points event where cowboys must earn points to compete in the National Rodeo. This is a ticketed event. For more information contact the Farm Show Complex at (717) 787-5373.

- **Dairy Judging School.** Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Purebred Dairy Cat-

tle Association (PDCA) on Saturday Jan. 18, dairy judges can participate in the school. Based on their final score, they can become eligible for placement on the Pennsylvania PDCA list of recommended dairy judges, which is circulated to local and regional dairy shows in Pennsylvania.

- **New Food Court.** A Farm Show favorite, the Farm Show Food Court will be located in the New Expo Hall and will continue to serve its signature foods such as baked potatoes, batter dipped vegetables, and barbeque sandwiches, plus the famous farm show milkshakes.

- **Escalators.** To make travel easier between the new Expo Hall, New Large Arena, renovated Northeast Building, and the existing complex, escalators are located in the new Main Lobby and at the base of the new connecting corridor.

- **Parking.** Once again, visitors to the Farm Show will be provided parking space off of Elmerston Avenue, about a half mile


from the complex. The price hasn't gone up — parking is still \$5. Shuttle buses will provide round-trip transportation from the parking lot to the farm show with pick-up and delivery at the front door.

- **Livestock, dairy, poultry, and competitive exhibits** at this year's Farm Show will compete for a record-breaking \$380,863 in premiums. The Pennsylvania Farm Show provides more than 325 commercial exhibitors and over 8,000 competitive exhibitors with an opportunity to showcase their products and services to local, national, and international visitors.

For more information about the Farm Show, contact the Farm Show Complex at (717) 787-5373 or access the Pennsylvania Farm Show website through the Pennsylvania PowerPort at www.state.pa.us keyword "Farm Show," or directly at the Department of Agriculture homepage at www.pda.state.pa.us.

GROWER & MARKETER FEATURES EXOTICS

The Feb. 1 issue includes *Lancaster Farming's Grower & Marketer*, with features on specialty and exotic vegetable crops. Also scheduled: a feature on aquatic production, a preview of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey, and producer event news.



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