

# Pennsylvania Holstein Convention: 'Star Gazing in Bethlehem'

BETHLEHEM (Lehigh Co.) — Pennsylvania Holstein breeders will gather Feb. 19-21 for their annual convention at the Holiday Inn in Bethlehem.

Doug Seipt, Easton, Northampton County and Ray Seidel, Kutztown, Berks County are co-chairmen for this convention, "Star Gazing in Bethlehem."

The Southeast District planning committees have designed a fun and educational three days for Pennsylvania Holstein enthusiasts.

The convention kicks off Wednesday, Feb. 19, with the board of directors meeting and tours to Plushanski Farms; Junge Farms, Inc.; Dunn's Pride Holsteins, and Yuengling Brewery. These tours are designed not only to increase camaraderie among participants and to witness various sights in the area, but to also see the different management styles of dairies throughout the district.

The convention banquet will take place later that evening, including presentation of the Hall of Fame and Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder awards.

"Tina and Lena," from Minnesota, will provide entertainment for the evening. This duo combines a rich blend of music,

humor, and high-energy fun. The comedy-singing team began in 1984 from life-long interests in the performing arts.

As part of their busy performance schedule, "Tina and Lena" have performed three times at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. At the Pennsylvania Holstein convention, they will serve up jokes plus guitar pickin', banjo strummin', piano playin' entertainment. Their show will be customized for the Pennsylvania Holstein community.

The Pennsylvania Holstein 90th Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, Feb. 20-21.

The ladies of the Pennsylvania Holstein industry will begin their program at the Hotel Bethlehem with the "official welcome." The speaker will be Dr. Leo Frangipane, originally from Reading. "Focusing on the Right Stuff" is the title of his presentation. Frangipane has been a practicing surgeon for nearly a quarter of a century, sharing his life with patients who face disease, tough decisions, fear, anger, and even death. He speaks nationally and internationally on wellness issues, and is a consultant to healthcare organizations across the U.S.

A carefully prepared lunch will be enjoyed in the beautiful hotel.

The group will then tour the Moravian Museum, a National Historic Landmark, will have time in the afternoon to visit the antique and gift shops in downtown Bethlehem.

This year's Holstein Convention Sale is set for 7 p.m., Feb. 20, after the pre-sale hot buffet. The sale cattle will be available for previewing at Dean and Dale Smith's Farm starting the day before the sale. If you are interested in consigning, please contact David Lentz at (717) 329-9202.

The ever-popular dairy bar

and commercial exhibit displays will be open to convention participants on Wednesday and Thursday. If you are interested in contributing to the Holstein Convention, and would like to have your company represented in the commercial exhibits contact Connie Troutman, (610) 926-3075, or Lolly Leshner, (610) 488-9160.

The Awards Breakfast and program will take place Friday, Feb. 21 as a finale to the convention. The program speaker is Tim Abbott of ABS, Global. He will be

speaking on his five-year battle with lymphoma cancer and how he maintains a positive outlook on life. A fun auction will mark the end of the convention, benefiting the Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association. Items such as quilts, paintings, and other crafts will be auctioned.

General questions about the convention can be directed to Doug Seipt, (610) 253-9918, Ray Seidel, (610) 683-6223, or Ken Raney at the Pennsylvania Holstein Association.

## Agriculture Department's Weights And Measures Division Completes Record Number Of Inspections

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes announced that the department's Division of Weights and Measures completed a record-breaking 38,267 inspections in 2002.

"We want to make sure that, in Pennsylvania, you get what you pay for," Hayes said. "The

Agriculture Department's Weights and Measures Division is vigilant in its efforts to protect both buyer and seller. Our record-breaking number of inspections in 2002 is evidence of that."

Last year's mark of 38,267 inspections is an increase of nearly 9,000 from 2001. Total inspections in 2001 numbered 29,328.

In addition to scales and gas pumps, many other types of devices are tested by Weights and Measures officials. Such devices include meters used to measure home fuel-oil deliveries, milk meters, home propane deliveries, wire-and-cordage-measuring devices, highway truck scales, and fabric-measuring instruments.

## 2003 Mid-Atlantic Winter Brambles Conference Feb. 7-8

LEESBURG, Va. — The North American Bramble Growers Association - Mid-Atlantic region and Virginia Cooperative Extension will sponsor a Bramble meeting Feb. 7 and 8 here at the Holiday Inn at Carradoc Hall.

This event will offer high quality information to existing producers as well as individuals interested in a thorough introduction to the various issues affecting the production of blackberries and raspberries. Brambles

are a crop that can match agricultural production interests from the smallest farm sizes to larger operations.

The conference has a focus on subjects most currently critical to the production of bramble fruit (blackberry and raspberry) and factors affecting the viability of individual farms and the growing industry.

Key topics include season extension, irrigation in heat and drought, nutrition, in-depth culti-

var discussion, specifics of insects pests diseases and nematodes, direct marketing, wholesale marketing, and grower profiles.

Speakers include Dr. Richard Funt of Ohio State University, Dr. Harry Swartz of the University of Maryland, Bryan Butler of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Dr. Doug Pfeiffer and Dr. Tony Bratsch of Virginia Tech, Dr. Bill Cline and Dr. Zvezdana

Pesic-VanEsbroek of North Carolina State University, Dr. John Halbrecht of Pennsylvania State University, Mike Dronoy of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, and discussions with individual growers.

Information including conference schedule and registration can be obtained at <http://www.ento.vt.edu/Fruitfiles/HotBramble.html> and <http://www.nabga.com>; or by contacting Jason Murray at [jamurray@vt.edu](mailto:jamurray@vt.edu) at (703) 737-8978, or Richard Fagan at [rfagan@mindspring.com](mailto:rfagan@mindspring.com) and (301) 724-4085. Reduced rates are available for registration received by Jan. 20.

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