

Virginia Farm Show A Success

GAY BROWNLEE
Virginia Correspondent

FISHERSVILLE, Va.—On Jan. 21, the folks who braved the bone-chilling cold to attend the 2003 Virginia Farm Show at Augusta Expo Land did so for varied personal reasons.

For some, the fun of a day's outing was too good to miss, but serious issues brought other attendees. At the farm show there were people to exchange ideas with, especially experts who were prepared to field their topical

questions and send the answers across the farmer's home plate.

Sam Harris from Spotsylvania, for instance, talked about being a beef farmer in partnership with his brother, W.D. Harris. The siblings run a finishing operation and have 250 brood cows. Their land produces 200 acres of corn, 200 acres of soybeans, and 60 acres of alfalfa.

With Ellen, his wife and their three young daughters, the Harris family strives to be aware of new possibilities that will en-

able them to profitably maintain the farming lifestyle they love. And they are concerned about the generation that will have depended on their leadership to pave their way. Twenty years from now, how will their girls cope with new agricultural issues if they, too, decide on a life of farming?

Harris and Ellen began pondering the possibility of purchasing a few goats as they were strolling through a heated tent and were introduced to Southfork Farm's exhibit by Nathan and Sue Ellen Haver, Goshen. An enclosure featured a full-blood Boer dam and three adorable kids aged 3-weeks.

"Anything new—like these goats," said Harris. "Doing something different."

"Something to teach the children responsibility," said Ellen.

"And to get them interested in farming at a young age," said their dad, already doing the mental calculations.

Goats, in time, would generate some profit. Meanwhile, expanding the Harris family interests and diversifying the livestock could be a very healthy decision.

Visitor Monty Heatwole, however, was taking his questions about semen to another exhibitor. Heatwole manages Cub Run Dairy in McGaheysville for his



With support from her mother, Ellen Harris, Brandy Harris, 4, gets to hold a 3-week old Boer kid goat at the Va. Farm Show held Jan. 21, 22 at Expo Land.



Demonstrations such as log sawing by Timber Harvester, were popular at the Virginia Farm Show and attracted many spectators away from the heated tents and main building into the frosty outdoors where the sawdust was flying out of a chute.

dad. The Holstein operation is comprised of a milking herd of 250 head.

Bill Meyerhoeffer, independent dairy consultant from Harrisonburg, was taking advantage of the opportunity to absorb the latest information that could be helpful to his clients.

"Basically, I came to get some technical information and see new feeding equipment and talk with people in the industry. We live in a progressive area and people try to keep up on things," he said.

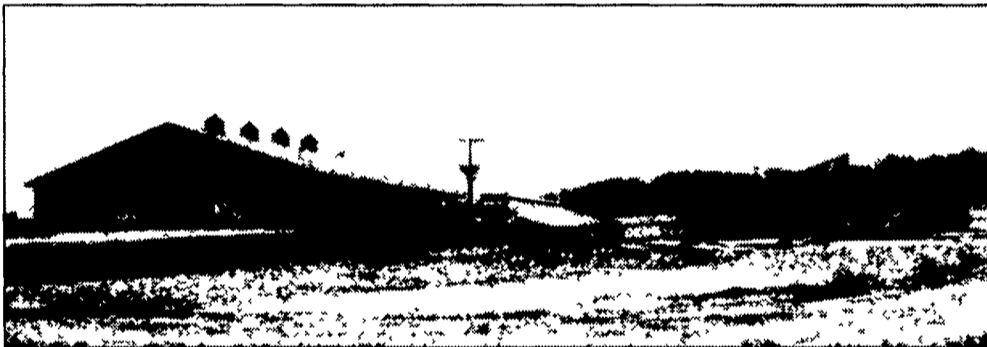
(Turn to Page A30)



Visitors to the Virginia Farm Show — Titus Landis, Harrisonburg, Va. and LaVern Frey, Doylesburg, Pa. — are very interested in "person comfort" for the dairy farmer as much as they are creature comfort for the cows. They stop to learn more about the interlocking parlor cushion mats that are thick and comfortable and non-slip to walk on.

**We Specialize in Building, Remodeling,
and Automating Dairy Facilities...**

**SAYLOR HILLCREST DAIRY
ROCKWOOD, PA**



**D-20 Herringbone Parlor, 300 Cow 6-Row Drive Thru Freestall
and Special Needs Area with Separate Parlor.**

**Featuring Norbco stalls and curtains,
Gable belting in alleyways, Bohlman Concrete waterers
and Pasture Mat pillows and covers**

— We Are Builders/Equipment Dealers —

- We offer total systems design with parlor automation a specialty.
- We build complete facilities and offer many years of experience.
- We also do repairs and remodeling, offering plumbing and electrical services.
- We are dealers for the following equipment:
 - Norbco Barn Equipment, Alley Scrapers, & Curtain Systems
 - Tunnel Ventilation Systems
 - Cow Mattress

**Give Us A Ring If You're Thinking About A Project Or
Need Advice On Ventilation, Milking Systems Or Animal Housing.
Give Us A Try — Have It Knisely Built!**

We offer full service on our products 24 hours a day.

Knisely BUILT
AGRICULTURAL CONSTRUCTION

**Bill Knisely
814-692-4110**

14 Cedar Ridge Drive
Port Matilda, PA 16870

**Arnold Decker
717-369-3607**

the t.i.r.f. system™ - A Proven Success

Our **Dry-Trak™** surface provides your livestock with optimum traction and movement, achieved through the proper balance of mat thickness and durometer (indentation or imprinting) as well as

- high grade input materials.
- exclusive interlock design.
- specialized Pro-Slider™ cleaning equipment.
- Slat-Lok™ non invasive anchors for slatted floors.

COMPONENTS OF A PROVEN SYSTEM

Gary Johnson
Box 154 Church St.
Springville Pa.
(570)965-2613

animat
www.animatonline.com
folkema@sympatico.ca

TOTAL INTERLOCKED RUBBER FLOORING