

Fair Time's Coming

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exhibiting public involved in the competitive exhibits. People now expect a lot of flash and activity. They also want to be a part and doing something," said Lipinski.

Her ideas for activating a static display is to add a person with tools to produce items, allow people's choice awards, conduct judging seminars, have the judges explain criteria the judging process, have handouts ready, conduct tasting, feeling contests, involve the public in making an item (butter churning), identify tools and their uses, have childrens crafts, and allow them to display them.

A few specific ideas for the fruits, vegetables, and flower departments are to decorate pumpkins or make vegetable items, have the fair-go'ers guess the weight of the pumpkins, identify kinds of apples and uses, seed plantings or pictures, construct a Mr./Mrs. Potato Head, identify herbs by smell, make a corsage, or guess how many seeds in a jar.

For the clothing and needlework department, Lipinski suggested allowing people to crochet, knit, or quilt in a community item (and auction it off, she proposed), have rug braiding, or hooking demonstrations, and identify needles and their uses.

For photography and art departments, Lipinski's ideas included having a community painting available, perhaps by having an artist draw an outline and allowing participants to fill it in.

Inviting children to do drawings and then displaying them may also lead to the children becoming exhibitors in future years, she said. Fair-go'ers may also try judging selected photos that were not part of the regular competitive exhibits area.

In the food and baked goods department, participants could decorate cupcakes, build marshmallow structures, share recipes, and identify spices. Add sounds and smells, such as a bread making machine, she suggested.

"If you can get them involved in these activities, they can see how easy it might be to enter and will exhibit next year," she said.

In the breakout sessions participants were given ideas on how to best display variety of exhibits. Rainy Linn, Venango County, dis-

cussed foods, canned goods, and display holiday items, denim cloth baked goods; Annie Clark, Tioga County, spoke about displaying country/traditional red-and-white clothing, needlework, and crafts; checked fabric to display needle-

point. "The challenge is, how can we create exhibits using technology that farmers are using on the 21st century farm," asked Don Fretz, who spoke about displaying fruits, vegetables, and flowers; and Pat Horstman, Washington County, discussed photography and art displays.

To display needlework and crafts, Annie Clark advised using, for example, Christmas trees to

many boxes come from one bushel or corn, with corn displayed in bushels, would help educate the public, he said.

Fretz also spoke about a fair that used soy diesel in the tractor that transported fairgoers throughout the fairgrounds. The tractor carried a sign that described soy diesel.

To display photography, Pat Horstman suggested purchasing cheap fabric to fold, staple or tape underneath pictures to add interest and background.

Pennsylvania Fair Convention Sets Record

The 91st Annual Combined Convention of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association attracted a total of more than 1,800 people for the event which runs four days.

This makes it the largest convention in the history of the organization.

During the conference officials

conducted election of 2002-2004 PSACF officers. Elected to the office of president was Beverly Gruber, CFE, New Tripoli. Gruber is involved in four Pennsylvania fairs. She has been secretary/treasurer of PSACF for eight years and a board member for 22 years.

Elected as vice president is Lee

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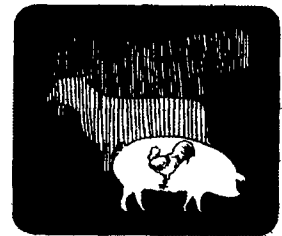
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