

17th Annual Lancaster County 4-H Benefit Auction Planned



Charles and Lori Hess display some of the items that will be auctioned off.

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The 17th Annual 4-H Benefit Auction will take place on Saturday, Feb. 22, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the Farm and Home Center Auditorium, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

Guest auctioneers include Harold Keller, Charles Hess, Mark Erb, and Jamie Heisey. This year's auction will feature a number of specialty items including Longaberger baskets, 4-H Centennial Baskets from Bradford Baskets, a basketball signed by the Penn State Men's Basketball Team, 1988 and 1989 Quebec Stamps, "The Farm" Quilt, two Harry Grant Manheim Auctions American Muscle Race Cars, a garden cart, and certificates to the Fulton Opera House, Binkley and Ober, Bube's Brewery, and Sight and Sound Theatres.

Other general items include animal and pet products, Winross and ERTL trucks/tractors, plants, craft items, honey, frozen turkeys, football cards, cook books, baby quilts and crocheted blankets, Wilbur Buds, Land O' Lakes Butter, home and garden supplies, motor oil, and numer-

ous gift certificates for merchandise and area services.

Gift certificates to be sold include: The Amish Village, Byers Butterflake Bakery, Cherry Hill Orchards Outlet, Chuck E. Cheese, The Eatery, Good 'N Plenty, Lapp's Family Restaurants, Old Country Buffet, Oregon Dairy Farm Market, Rockvale Square Outlets, Ruby Tuesday Restaurant, Scott's Hunting and Fishing, Shady Maple Smorgasbord, Strasburg Rail Road Company, Tanger Outlet Center, Village Greens Golf, Weaver Markets, Weis Markets, and Willow Valley.

Food items will be sold throughout the day by members of the Ephrata-Cocalico 4-H Community Club. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the county's 4-H program, through the purchase of educational materials, entry fees to events, transportation costs, volunteer leader support, and other 4-H expenses.

To receive a complete list of sale items or make a donation for the auction, contact the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension office at (717) 394-6851.

WHAT THE FARM SHOW MEANS TO PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURE AND OUR RURAL CULTURE

- There are eleven non-profit Ag Organizations in the Food Court. This year the sales totaled over \$1 million dollars. This money is used by these organizations to advance their interests in research, promotion, scholarships, etc.
- Youth Livestock Sale — 2003 sale involved several hundred youth and sale proceeds over market price for these project animals was in excess of \$115,890.96
- Youth Scholarship — since this project was started in 1993, there has been over \$247,500 awarded in scholarships to rural youth. In 2003, 24 scholarships of \$2,000 each were awarded.
- Over \$340,000 is available to competitive exhibitors in 33 different departments. These entries number close to 9,000.
- We host the annual Mid-Winter FFA Convention providing both free space and support for this activity. This year it was held in the new Banquet Hall.
- Host the Largest Bred Gilt Sale in the world benefiting the purebred swine industry.
- The administration committed over \$86 million dollars to a 375,000 square foot expansion that was completed in less than one year.
- Our Pennsylvania Farm Show through Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) is broadcast to over 2.9 million households throughout Pennsylvania.
- Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest media event in the state.
- Attendance — This year we made a lot of changes. The two primary ones were adding 375,000 sq ft to our building (*in less than one year*) and added 2 ½ days to our show. I fully anticipated that with these two major changes we would drive attendance by 20%. What truly happened was that our attendance increased by 75% to approximately 850,000 from 500,000 in the past. This has never happened in North America before (*Keep in mind Super Bowl attendance is 67,000*).
- International Recognition — the International Association of Fairs and Expo's annually presents a total of 13 Agriculture Awards to events that are members of the Organization. This year the Farm Show Complex received 4 of the 13.
- National Recognition — We were notified by Events Business News that the annual Farm Show had been listed in their publication as one of the top 100 events in North America to visit. Events Business News tracks over 100,000 events of all types in North America.
- Promoting Agriculture — there is no better tool to promote our industry and to build public support for a better understanding of how important it is that we in agriculture and our urban neighbors work together as we plan for the future benefiting all segments of our society.

Learn More, See More At The New York Farm Show

SYRACUSE, N.Y.—The New York Farm Show offers farmers a new and informative lineup of free educational programs, "For Your Profit" and Forest Management Workshops, Feb. 20, 21, and 22.

Three "For Your Profit" sessions, sponsored by American Agriculturist magazine, present government program and livestock odor-control information.

The schedule follows:

Farm program sign-up tips: Joseph Hauryski, Farm Service Agency (FSA) commodity programs specialist, defines the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program. Feb. 20, 2:45 p.m.; and Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m.

Precision manure application and odor reduction: Matt Maier, Aerway's Northeast sales manager, presents the benefits and fea-

tures of the newest liquid manure injection tools. Feb. 20, 2 p.m.; and Feb. 21, noon.

CAFO, EQIP funding and you: Joseph DelVecchio, N.Y. State Conservationist, gives tips on the 2002 Farm Bill conservation provisions. Feb. 20, 3:30 p.m.; and Feb. 21, 11:15 a.m.

In addition, the New York Forest Owners Association, New York State Department of Envi-

ronmental Conservation and Cornell Cooperative Extension present a series of one-hour forestry programs. A Forestry information booth is open during the show in the International Building, as well, workshops are presented as follows:

Quality Deer Management, Timber Taxea and Timber Theft. Feb. 20, 1 p.m.

Forest Management, Timber

Sales, Landowner Liability, Forest Land Enhancement Program, and Forest Information Resources. Feb. 21, 10 a.m.

Estate Planning, FLEP (Forest Land Enhancement Program) the New Federal Cost-sharing Payment Program for Assisting Forest Landowners in Stewardship Activities, Crop Tree Management and Conservation, and Wetlands Reserve Program. Feb. 22, 10 a.m.

Penn State Team Wins National Collegiate Beef Quiz Bowl

UNIVERSITY PARK, (Centre Co.) — A team of four students from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences was named National Collegiate Beef Quiz Bowl champion in late January at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's annual convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Team members — all seniors majoring in animal sciences — are Lori Connelly of Pennsylvania Furnace, a graduate of State College Area High School; LeeAnn Tice of Middlebury Center, a graduate of Cowanesque Valley High School; Sarah Kreiser of Annville, a graduate of Annville Cleona High School; and Jennifer Flinchbaugh of York, a graduate of Dallastown Area High School. Faculty member Dan Kniffen accompanied the team to Tennessee.

"We couldn't be more proud of our quiz bowl team members and

their performance in this highly competitive event," says Robert Steele, dean of the college. "Our college places a great value on the benefits our students get from competing in regional and national events, and it's wonderful to see their hard work earn them this national recognition."

Teams competing in the national quiz bowl qualified by winning regional competitions in the American Society of Animal Science "Quadrathlon." Winning the event is nothing new for the Nittany Lions; Penn State represented the Northeast in 10 of the last 11 years and won the quiz bowl in 1993, 1995, 1996, 2000 and 2001. It finished second in 1998 and 1999.

The quiz bowl is sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Foundation, a charitable institution whose mission is to promote the future of the beef industry.

Pro Ag Takes Dairy Issues To Washington

MESHOPPEN (Wyoming Co.)—Recently, several members of the Progressive Agriculture Organization (Pro Ag) traveled to Washington D.C. in an effort to convince members of Congress that congressional action must be immediately taken to correct the pricing inequities facing dairy farmers across the U.S.

Joining the Pro Ag group was Kathy Ozer, executive director of the National Family Farm Coalition and staff member Molly Spence.

The meeting in Washington was hosted by Mike Oscar, legislative assistant to Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Josh Stahl, legislative assistant to Rep. Don Sherwood (R-Pa.). Also in attendance were many Senate and Representative aides.

The thrust of the meeting centered on inadequate milk prices paid to dairy farmers and drought relief payments. Arden

Tewksbury, manager of Pro Ag, told the group that Congress and the USDA must decide if they intend to maintain our family farmers style of farming or if they intend to continue pricing practices that force our family farmers out of business.

Some of the aides present informed the group that legislation will be introduced to allow interstate dairy compacts. Again, the Pro Ag group reminded everyone that the industry needs a comprehensive dairy bill that will help dairy farmers across the U.S. This bill must be structured to cover the dairy farmers' cost of production.

Gerald Carlin, a member of Pro Ag, challenged the USDA's figures, indicating that American dairy farmers were producing too much milk (Carlin showed figures indicating that the U.S. is a milk producing deficit country).

Tewksbury told the group that

figures indicate nearly 10 billion pounds of milk equivalent is imported by the U.S. An official of the USDA related their figures indicated that imports make up 8 percent-9 percent of the milk in the U.S. and their figures are a factor in the low milk prices.

Mary Waters from the USDA indicated the department was optimistic regarding the possibility of making drought payments to agriculture producers that were shortchanged last fall. These payments would be made to farmers in Fayette, Green, and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania, as well as counties in other states. Sen. Thad Cochran has a disaster bill introduced that could also alleviate some of the problems caused by last year's drought.

Another meeting Feb. 18 will consist of additional congressional aides from various sections of the country.

Pro Ag can be reached at (570) 833-5776.