

Grumbine

(Continued from Page A1)

Wolff said the move fits with the new administration's "vision of looking forward." He is reviewing resumes and expects to announce a new director "within the next week or two."

Grumbine was named Farm Show director during the Tom Ridge administration.

Ever since his days as a 4-H'er of 8 or 9 years old, the Myerstown farm native has had a long and illustrious relationship with the state's annual ag expo.

Prior to becoming director in 1996, Grumbine served on the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission for 17 years. He has also been a leader in a number of related events and organizations.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Grumbine served as president of Pennsylvania Livestock Association and chairman of the Keystone International Livestock Exposition. For this work and his service on the Farm Show Commission, he was named to the Pennsylvania Livestock Hall of Fame.

He is vice-chairman of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, and will become chairman in December.

Grumbine's leadership skills were evident early in life. In 1965, he was named Pennsylvania FFA president.

A lot has happened at the Farm Show during Grumbine's tenure as director, beginning with his renovation of all the livestock pens and equipment, and ending with last year's \$86 million expansion and improvement project.



Grumbine is on his way to visit his horse, housed on his son's property.

According to Grumbine, the Farm Show Complex — one of the largest ag expo facilities on the continent — is a model of a well-run exposition center.

"We have, without a shadow of a doubt, the most efficiently run facility of its kind in North America," he said. "Any measuring stick you want to use, we still come out on top."

Grumbine credited a loyal, dedicated staff for their help running the show and managing throughout last year's hectic expansion work.

"My staff is next to none in the industry," he said. "If there was a job to be done until 10 at night, there was never a complaint."

During the expansion project, Grumbine said he had some sleepless nights, and wondered at times if the work would get done in time for this year's show.

While the show for a record-

breaking crowd went on as planned in the new facility, there was a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work involved.

"It looked like a duck going across a pond smooth on the surface and a lot of churning underneath," Grumbine said of the Farm Show this past January.

Under Grumbine and his staff, the Farm Show has received a number of national and international awards. In the past two years, it received four awards from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, as well as being named America's number one rodeo and livestock facility in 1998.

A highlight for Grumbine through all of his years of involvement with the Farm Show is seeing what the event offers youth and families across the state.

"You see families that are

there for the third and fourth generation," he said. "It has a tremendous impact on the rural community in Pennsylvania."

For Grumbine, seeing youth receive their first ribbon in the show ring is an unforgettable experience.

"The issue is not that it's a blue ribbon," he said. "The key is that they have the ribbon with the state seal of Pennsylvania and thousands of people witnessed that."

Of losing the director position, Grumbine said, "Evidently (the administration) has somebody they feel is more qualified than I am."

According to Grumbine, "about six people in the country" are qualified for the job.

Grumbine said he would have liked to help with the transition to a new director.

For now, he is at home on his farm near Myerstown, a few miles from the farm where he grew up. He lives with his wife Barbara, another person highly dedicated to Pennsylvania agriculture.

Barbara serves with the local Farm Service Agency and is a member of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board.

Two grown sons, Darryl and Darren, live nearby. Darren runs the family's 400-acre crop operation, and Darryl continues to keep sheep on the home farm.

A grandson, Dakota, will turn 1 year old in May.

Grumbine said he doesn't know what his future holds, only that "it will be something with agriculture."

And one way or another, he said, he'll stay connected with the Pennsylvania Farm Show.



Dennis Grumbine, at his home near Myerstown Wednesday. He said he will maintain strong ties to the Pennsylvania ag community.

Maryland Ag Ed Foundation Hires Secondary Education Director

HAVRE DE GRACE, Md. — The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation has hired Jamie Picardy as its first Secondary Education Director.

A native of Michigan, Picardy received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biosystems (Agriculture) Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Geography from Michigan State University in Grand Rapids. Her graduate research was in Community Supported Agriculture and she has worked on several small-scale farms in western Michigan and taught undergraduate environmental and social science courses.

This is a new position for the Foundation as it works to expand its Ag in the Classroom program into middle and high school curriculums. The Foundation has been highly successful in educating elementary teachers and students about the important role that agriculture plays in their daily lives through teacher training and mobile agri-science lab visits to schools providing hands-on learning experiences for students. Teachers are trained to infuse agricultural concepts into students' reading, writing, science, math, and social studies curriculum.

Picardy will be working closely with the Maryland State Department of Educa-

tion in developing agricultural-based activities to be infused into curriculums such as science, math, and social studies at the middle and high school levels. She will also be developing and implementing agricultural career awareness programs for middle and high school students.

Another focus of this position, will be working with the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association to provide professional

development workshops, resource updates, and a new base-of-operations for the agriculture science teachers located throughout the state. Jamie is currently coordinating plans for the agriculture science teachers summer workshop set for July 9-11 in Grantsville, Md.

Since joining the Foundation in January, Picardy has attended the National

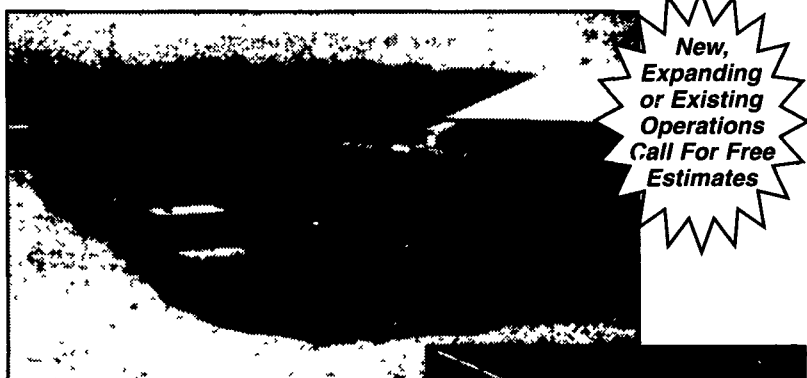
FFA Agricultural Education In-Service in Indianapolis and has been busy meeting Maryland's agriculture and education communities and developing programs for implementation beginning in the summer of 2003.

Picardy said, "Maryland has provided me with a heart-felt

welcome and I am excited to have this opportunity to work with the Foundation in developing a secondary education program." She welcomes guidance and input from Maryland's educators and agriculturalists. She can be contacted at (410) 939-9030.

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