

PDA, Penn State Unveil Facility

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The new Livestock Evaluation Center was dedicated to Hayes Wednesday afternoon, to a full house of more than 700 at the facility near the Ag Progress Days annual event in Rockspring.

Steele said, "I couldn't be more pleased to have my friend's name, Sam, on this building."

When Hayes spoke, receiving two standing ovations, Hayes recalled the history of the construction and the many associations involved in its progress.

The livestock evaluation center replaces the old and outdated Pennsylvania Meat Animal Evaluation Center on Fox Hollow Road in State College.

Hayes said the first facility, with a capacity of 17,497 square feet, was "not a 21st Century facility."

"For the livestock industry to be profitable, to get those cuts of meat from the animals on test, we needed something other than the one livestock evaluation center we had."

Hayes noted that the idea for



Visitors to the new livestock evaluation center examine a holding area for livestock. All photos by Andy Andrews, editor



Visitors sign the guestbook to the new Samuel Hayes Jr. Livestock Evaluation Center during Ag Progress Days.

the new center, with an address in Pennsylvania Furnace, was not just some idea "concocted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture" (PDA) at a cost of \$6.4 million. Though the new facility measures more than 178,000 square feet, about 10 times the capacity of the old facility, the design of the Samuel Hayes Livestock Facility included the input of Penn State and representatives from the sheep, beef, hog, and goat industries.

The design of the new facility is all "21st century," noted Hayes. "It is the biggest and best livestock evaluation center in America. It is 10 times larger and 10 times better in its functionality."

He spoke about a contractor's daughter, at 13 years of age, who laid the last concrete by hand — representing the involvement of the state's youth at the basic level. And when he spoke, there was an edge in his voice, after thanking all the agencies and in-

dustry involved, about his love for agriculture.

Joining him in the dedication was Dennis Wolff, secretary of agriculture. The Hayes facility, noted Wolff, is all about "economic development, and is central to economic development in Pennsylvania."

Wolff said that it takes vision, planning, funding, and implementation," congratulating Hayes on his accomplishment.

Several representatives of the various industries also spoke.

Annette Lovell, Paoli, spoke about the recent Performance Ram and Ewe Invitational Sale on Aug. 2 at the site, which included a sale of 53 rams representing seven breeds, and more than 40 ewes. She said the Hayes facility is something we can be "really proud of."

Joe McMullen, Wakefield, represented the beef industry. He congratulated the state's Department of General Services and the design team for coming up with a

place "that is animal friendly."

Dave Reinecker, York Springs, represented the swine industry, who noted how honored he was to be a part of the dedication.

During Ag Progress, visitors were transported by bus all three days to tour the new Livestock Evaluation Center.

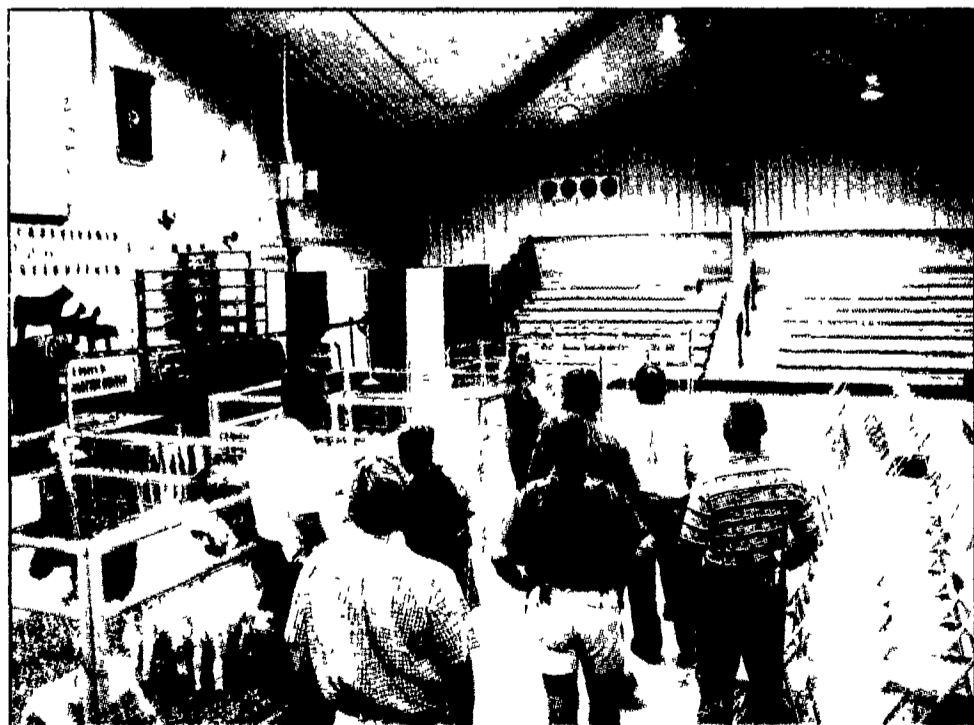
Dr. Elizabeth Santini, veterinarian with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, spoke on Tuesday about the new facility, measuring 178,000 square feet at a cost to taxpayers of \$6.5 million.

The facility will look into just how good male livestock are genetically, she noted.

"How good are their genetics?" she said. "Can they grow fast, make muscle, and produce babies?"

The facility will examine the genetic traits of bulls, boars, rams, and bucks. Each species will be examined in their own

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Dr. Elizabeth Santini, veterinarian with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, greets visitors during a tour of the new center on Tuesday.



A view of the huge livestock evaluation center.

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