

Mid-Atlantic Fruit, Vegetable Convention Theme: 'Charting Your Course For 2004'

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Fruit and vegetable growers from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond will be gathering here at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center Jan. 27-29 for the 2004 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention.

About 2,000 persons are expected for the annual event that has become recognized as one of the premier fruit and vegetable grower meetings in the Northeast. The theme for this year's event is "Charting Your Course for 2004."

The convention has been jointly sponsored by the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, the Maryland State Horticultural Society, and the New Jersey State Horticultural Society for the past 26 years. The Pennsylvania State

University, University of Maryland, and Rutgers University Cooperative Extensions all assist in organizing the educational sessions as well.

The Great American Hall at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center will host the Trade Show with more than 130 exhibitors. Specialized horticultural equipment, farm market merchandise, and packaging, will all be on display along with information on the latest seed varieties, fruit varieties, pesticides, and other supplies and services for the commercial grower.

Six or more concurrent educational sessions will be offered on all three days of the convention. The following full-day sessions are planned for the first day: tree fruits, season extension technology, basic vegetable production school, and wine grapes. Half-

day sessions on wholesale marketing, peaches, labor and legal issues, beans, vine crops, asparagus, and peppers will be offered.

On the second day, full-day sessions on peaches, tree fruits, direct marketing, water use issues, tomatoes (fresh market and processing), and potatoes will be featured. Also scheduled are half-day sessions on small fruit and pumpkins.

The convention will close on the third day with full-day sessions on tree fruits, small fruit, sweet corn, bedding plants, and cut flowers. Half-day sessions on specialty vegetables and value-added vegetables will also be offered.

Many pesticide applicator update training credits are available to growers attending the sessions. The program covers nearly every aspect of fruit, vegetable, potato, wine grape, and small fruit pro-

duction. Commercial growers should not pass up this educational opportunity.

On Jan. 27, fruit and vegetable growers will be treated to a reception followed by the annual Fruit and Vegetable Growers Dinner. The dinner will include awards, recognitions, and entertainment. On Jan. 28, the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Board and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association will each sponsor evening receptions for growers. The processing tomato growers with the highest yields for the 2003 season will be honored at the annual Tomato Awards Luncheon Jan. 28.

For more information on the fruit program and registration, contact the following:

• Maureen Irvin, State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, (717) 677-4184 or www.shaponline.org.

• William Tietjen, (908) 475-6505 or Jerome Frecon, (856) 307-6450, New Jersey State Horticultural Society or <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu>.

• Robert Black, Maryland State Horticultural Society, (301) 271-7491.

For more information on the vegetable, potato, or greenhouse ornamental program and registration, contact William Troxell, Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, (717) 694-3596 or www.pvga.org.

Persons registered for either the fruit or vegetable program can attend all the sessions offered (fruit, vegetable, and small fruit sessions) plus the trade show. Registration either through the mail or at the door is required to attend both the trade show and educational sessions.

Five Days Of Angus Events At 2004 National Western

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Angus enthusiasts from across the country will gather for the 2004 National Western Stock Show's Angus activities in Denver, Colo. Five days of events are planned and include the 2004 Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) and National Angus Show, junior heifer show, pen and carload show and the National Western Angus Bull Sale. Angus breeders from around the globe, as well as some of the top Angus cattle from the United States, will be in Denver.

The activities begin with the junior heifer show at 3 p.m.,

Tuesday, January 13, in the Stadium Arena. Alan Miller, LeRoy, Ill., will evaluate the juniors' Angus females.

The female portion of the Super Point ROV and National Angus Show will begin at 8 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, in the Stadium Arena. Jack Ward, Plattsburg, Mo., will judge the National Show.

An Angus "Listening Post" will be open for visitors Wednesday through Saturday during the Angus events in Denver. Association members and commercial cattle producers are encouraged

to stop by the Angus tent in the yards to talk about current beef industry issues, visit with Association staff, ask questions and exchange ideas.

The National Western Angus Bull Sale highlights the events on Thursday, Jan. 15. The bull sale show begins at 8 a.m. in the Stadium Arena. Five judges will evaluate the 54 bulls and select division and grand champions. Judges include Donald Bloom, Westville, Ind.; Jeff Gooden, Iberia, Mo.; Bruce Kiesewetter, Letts, Iowa; Lorna Pelton, College Station, Texas; and Kevin

Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C. The sale begins at 2 p.m. in the Beef Palace Auction Arena.

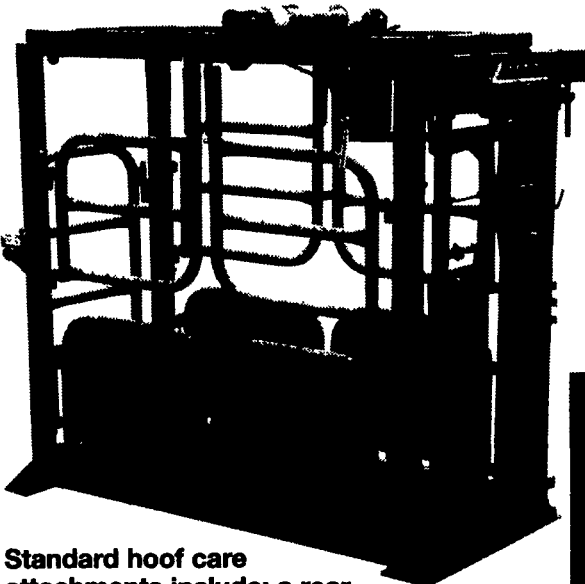
The sale of the 2004 Angus Foundation Heifer Package will precede the bull sale. Beartooth Ranch, Columbus, Mont., is donating BT Everelda Entense 51N to headline this year's package, which benefits youth, education and research projects of the breed.

An Angus reception will wrap up Thursday's activities. The reception is set from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Denver Marriott City Center, located downtown.

The Super Point ROV and National Angus Show resumes Fri-

day, Jan. 16, with the bull show. Ward will again serve as the judge, beginning at 8 a.m. in the Stadium Arena. The Foundation Female Sale, sponsored by the Colorado Angus Association, will begin at 3 p.m. at the Livestock Auction Arena in the yards.

Angus activities conclude on Saturday, Jan. 17, with the pen and carload shows in the yards. The event begins at 9 a.m. in the Livestock Center Auction Arena. Henry Bergfeld, Summitville, Ohio; Dick Burns, Kickapoo, Ill.; and Jim Pipkin, Republic, Mo., will officiate the group competitions.



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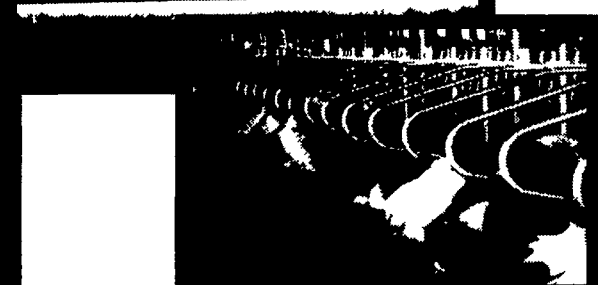
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