

# Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association celebrates 60 years of milkshakes

The annual Pennsylvania Farm Show, held each January in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the country. Thousands of visitors flock to the eight-day show to see a variety of animals and activities. Even the food court highlights the many agricultural products of Pennsylvania with fare such as honey ice cream, maple cotton candy, grilled portabella mushrooms, trout chowder soup and apple dumplings for sale, just to name a few.

The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, a service organization that funds scholarships and youth programs across Pennsylvania, offers ice cream sundaes, deep fried mozzarella cubes, toasted cheese sandwiches and a particular fan favorite: milkshakes.

2014 marked the 60th year that the association has sold milkshakes at the Farm Show. The booth was established in 1954 with the partnership of the Valley Grange #1360 from Lewisberry, Pennsylvania. The organizations also team up to sell shakes at the All-American Dairy Show in September.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary, Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association Executive Director David Smith pledged a \$5,000 donation from the association, which was matched by another \$5,000 from the Valley Grange, to Penn State Hershey's Four Diamonds Fund, which raises money for pediatric cancer patients. **PD**

The 60th milkshake anniversary was also the theme for this year's butter sculpture, an annual tradition at the Farm Show sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association and Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program. A thousand pounds of butter was donated by Land O'Lakes and used in the sculpture, which took artist Jim Victor 18 days to create.

More than 14,000 gallons of milk are used in the booth throughout the Farm Show.

It would take an average-sized Pennsylvania dairy farm 19 days to produce that many gallons of milk.



**ABOVE:** To help commemorate the anniversary, milkshake cups and T-shirts were sold through the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess & Promotion Services booth.

**NEXT PAGE:** Milkshakes sell for \$4 each and come in vanilla, chocolate or a combination of the two. Photos by Emily Caldwell.

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To staff the booth, it takes 35 people per shift at three shifts per day. More than 400 Valley Grange volunteers were scheduled for the 2014 event.

Thanks to the proceeds from the milkshakes, the Dairymen's Association will surpass \$1 million in funding to dairy youth and development education programs.

—Information from Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association press release and Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association



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