

The 150th birthday of Michigan State University was prominently celebrated during this year's Ag Expo on the campus of Michigan State University July 19-21.

Visitors received a cool welcome in the university's air-conditioned tent that featured various MSU programs and daily demonstrations in addition to activity stations and displays celebrating the MSU's sesquicentennial anniversary. Birthday cake was served daily to guests as part of the celebration.

Last year's attempt to increase attendance by extending hours, featuring different types of demonstrations and adding evening entertainment proved successful enough to try again this year.

Ag Expo visitors gathered information from the many exhibitors showcasing implements, equipment and a variety of services. There were also many demonstrations and tours available to participate in. Extended hours on Wednesday evening allowed time to hold a tractor pull.

The highlight of the annual



Kids got to take a mini-Ag Challenge in toy gators in the Farm Bureau tent.



The tractor pulls held Wednesday night was well attended by both spectators and participants.

Ag Expo VIP breakfast was MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon's announcement of a \$7.5 million donation to MSU by retired Eagle Township farmer Dave Morris. The funds will be used for various agriculture programs at MSU, including Agriculture and Natural Resources Education and livestock research.

The annual Michigan FFA Foundation Auction following the breakfast raised nearly \$7,000 to support agricultural education and leadership programs by auctioning off a gold-plated John Deere 6410 and a complete set of FFA Foundation tractors, including this year's gold-plated John Deere. Former state FFA advisor Rich Karelse donated the set. Clark Farms of Eagle Twp. purchased the gold-plated tractor for \$3,200. Michigan Representative Neal Nitz purchased the set for \$3,700.

Visitors to the MMPA tent met and talked with the many MMPA field representatives and managers on hand to answer questions. The visitors viewed displays featuring the impact the dairy industry has on the Michigan economy and the many services MMPA provides "Working to Make a Difference for YOU."



Daisy greeted visitors at the MMPA tent.

Again this year, visitors to the MMPA tent were able to purchase MSU 4-H cheese curds. Proceeds from the sale of the cheese went to Michigan 4-H Dairy Program and the Michigan Dairy Expo.

The 2006 Ag Expo will take place July 18-20 in East Lansing.



Ag Expo visitors were encouraged to sign a card for MSU's 150th birthday.



Various daily demonstrations, like this one on cattle handling, took place during the three-day event.



Warm, breezy weather, interesting demonstrations and fun hands-on activities for all ages enticed families to spend the whole day at Ag Expo.



Antique steam tractors drove around the exhibition grounds several times each day.



Retired farmer David Morris (l) donated \$7.5 million to MSU. Lou Anna K. Simon (r) announced the generous gift during the VIP breakfast Tuesday morning.