

# 2007 Ag Expo

The good old days of Ag Expo are working to make a comeback, according to Michigan State University's Ag Expo coordinator Kirk Heinze. Crowd numbers were up, exhibitor numbers were up and feedback from both groups was very positive immediately following the show.

"I thought last year went well but this year went even better," Kirk says. "The feeling seems to be that Ag Expo has turned the corner and is beginning to restore its vitality."

Initial estimates put the three-day crowd at more than 16,500 people, up nearly 6 percent from last year. Vendors helped to get people to Ag Expo by inviting their

best customers to come by and visit.

"The vendors were extremely happy. We sold out almost all of our spaces this year and had at least 10-12 new vendors that stopped by and wanted to exhibit next year."

On site demonstrations were very well received during Ag Expo. The skid steer, feed equipment and livestock demonstrations were packed, according to Kirk.

The tractor pulls were very well attended and organizers of that portion of Ag Expo are considering adding a third day of pulls next year.

The 2008 Ag Expo will take place July 15-17 in East Lansing.



Miss Michigan 2007, Kirsten Haglund stopped by the MMPA tent to pose for a photo with MMPA's "Daisy" during Ag Expo. Kirsten was crowned Miss Michigan on June 16, 2007 in Muskegon.



New this year was the skid steer ride-and-drive demonstration where participants could test their skills at driving a skid steer through a short obstacle course giving them the opportunity to test-drive different machines from four different manufacturers. Over 250 people participated in the ride and drive, with 20 receiving perfect scores for not knocking over any bowling pins.



Visitors to the MMPA tent got the opportunity to talk to MMPA staff members and learn more about the many ways MMPA works on legislative and other issues that impact dairy farmers. Here, MMPA General Manager John Dilland talks with MMPA Member Representatives Christy Dinsmoore and Rich Fluegge.



The annual Michigan FFA Foundation Auction following the breakfast raised \$1,900 to support agricultural education and leadership programs by auctioning off a gold-plated 806 Farmall. David Morris, shown here, receiving the tractor, and family of Grand Ledge purchased the gold-plated tractor for \$1,900.



Side-by-side comparisons of feed processing and mixing equipment provided farmers with a first hand comparison of different brands of mixers. Attendees were able to look down into the mixers working from an observation deck and afterward were able to pick the feed up and take a look at it after it had been processed by each mixer. MMPA member Green Meadow Farms donated all of the corn silage used for the feed mixer demonstrations during Ag Expo.

## Slurry Seeding Demo Showcased New Land Application Process

Farmers got a first hand look at a new manure application process that saves time and is environmentally friendly called slurry seeding on July 18 during the 2007 Ag Expo at Michigan State University.

The demonstrations were conducted by Tim Harrigan, assistant professor in the MSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

“We’re excited about slurry seeding because it allows farmers to combine manure application, low-disturbance aeration tillage and seeding of cover crops in one nutrient-efficient and environmentally sensitive operation,” Tim says.

The process, which has been in development at MSU since 2003, involves mixing cover crop seed with manure in a slurry tanker equipped with a rear-mounted rolling-tine aerator. The seed-laden slurry is then passed through a hydraulically driven, rotating chopper/distributor. No additional seedbed tillage or soil

firming is required.

Manure slurry-enriched seeding of cover crops builds soil quality by reducing tillage intensity and adding organic matter. The process can also help crop producers save fuel, expand land base and windows of opportunity for manure spreading, and protect water quality by preventing

runoff, erosion and sedimentation of streams and waterways.

Visitors were able to see the slurry seeding process and view demonstration plots of orchard grass and red clover slurry-seeded into a brome grass sod for hay and pasture renovation.



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