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Sommet de L'Élevage Livestock Trade Show Keeps Growing

CHICAGO, ILL. (June 4, 2008) — The Sommet de L'Élevage, the main event for livestock professionals, is back for its 17th edition. This show is one of the main international trade shows specializing in animal production. From Oct. 2 to Oct. 4, 2008, it will welcome 1,100 exhibitors and 75,000 professional visitors including 2,000 from 60 foreign countries, to a 150,000-square-meter exhibition site in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Romania will be the honored guest country. Each year, the number of international participants at the Sommet increases, with this time more than 350 foreign exhibitors from 30 countries representing all the livestock sectors.

Located at the heart of the Massif Central, the largest beef cattle breeding region in Europe, the Sommet de l'Élevage is a business forum primarily devoted to showing animals. More than 1,800 animals of high breeding value will be presented at the show (1,100 cattle from 22 French and European breeds, 400 sheep from 26 breeds, 300 horses from 16 breeds, and more).

Events for 2008

Three major competitions are organized for the show:

National Aubrac Competition. During the last 10 years, the Aubrac breed has experienced a major quantitative and geographic expansion (54,000 cattle registered in 1988; 135,000 in 2007). The breed will be holding its National Competition at the show, presenting its best 400 animals. On the agenda: the different categories judged in the ring, an auction of prize bulls and heifers, and a presentation of the genetic selection process of the breed.

National Charolais Sheep Competition. One hundred twenty animals will be present for this competition involving the different categories, together with an overall prize and a male and female championship prize.

Interregional Holstein Competition. As the No. 1 forum for dairy cattle in the south of France, the Sommet will host the grand interregional competition of the leading French dairy breed. Organized by the Massif Central region's Federation of Holstein breeders, this competition will present 150 animals and two guest regions: Rhône-Alpes and Midi-Pyrénées.

Note that this year all of the rings will be equipped with giant projection screens to provide all of the spectators with a better view of the competitions.

Area dedicated to international visitors

In order to provide an even better international reception, the Sommet de l'Élevage has entrusted the Association for the Development of International Exchanges in Agricultural and Agrifood Products and Techniques (ADEPTA) with the task of managing a reception area entirely dedicated to foreign delegations. Located on the mezzanine in Hall 1, close to the VIP lounge, it will provide foreign visitors with information and a personalized reception, while offering guided tours of the show (beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and horse areas, agricultural machinery, etc.).

The list of foreign delegations will be available and, any exhibitors who are interested can make appointments and leave their business cards or messages for these delegations.

Tours of livestock breeding farms

Located at the heart of the livestock farming area, in the cradle of the great European breeds of beef cattle, the show will offer foreign visitors the chance to visit farms and meet the breeders. Since they were launched, the tours have remained as popular as ever. This year, the show has scheduled visits of farms with Charolais, Limousin, Aubrac, Salers, Holstein and Montbeliarde cattle breeds as well as sheep-breeding units and an insemination center. In total, about ten tours will be organized over the three days. These half-day visits are free and accompanied by a technician and guide/interpreter.

Crossroads of ideas

More and more numerous every year, the professional and business meetings are held in the Conference Center. Please note the traditional International Interprofessional Seminar organized by Interbev trade commission, this year focusing on “Beef production in Europe: favorable prospects despite a difficult economic environment,” and the conference organized by the French Livestock Institute on the theme of “Approaches and advice with regard to buildings.” A number of other conferences will be organized on the initiative of exhibitors and other actors from the world of breeding (program currently being defined).

As full as ever, the program of professional events includes the famous “Sommets d’Or” competition (a technical innovation competition reserved for the exhibitors), the “Trophée des Massifs” (animals judged by young agricultural students), the “Fermiers d’Or” competition (food products competition), and more.

For more information, please contact:

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