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## PA Energy Games brings education, entertainment to oil & gas expo

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**HUGHESVILLE, PA** – Stifling heat did not keep crowds away from the second annual PA Energy Games held at the Lycoming County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Education was the driving force behind this year's event, with the goal for attendees both young and old to leave the Games with a better understanding of the oil & gas industry, energy production, distribution and usage.

The throng of visitors included energy professionals, adults of all ages, job seekers, and children. The Games included a total of 70 indoor and outdoor exhibits and displays, seminars and panel discussions that were open to the public, activities for children, a heavy equipment rodeo and a truck show.

Entertainment rounded out the evening with concerts by Chris Higbee and national recording artists BlackHawk and Outlaws.

Dave Pistner of Penn College of Technology in Williamsport moderated an education and training question-and-answer discussion featuring Dave Fidler of Lehigh Career & Technical Institute, Lindsey Sikorski of The Marcellus Institute at Mansfield University and Katie Bischak of Triangle Tech.

The Marcellus Business Central followed with a panel discussion entitled "Change is Good - Evolving Business Models to Meet the Demands of the Shale Gas Industry."

Publisher David Wells moderated the discussions with Beth Powell, Vice President and General Manager at New Pig Energy of Tyrone; James Ladlee, Associate Director at Penn State's

Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research in State College; and Sandy Spencer from Appellation Pre-Fab in nearby Montoursville.

The discussion centered around how a company must adapt to the changing natural gas industry in Pennsylvania to grow and succeed. Spencer spoke about how her company grew along with the natural gas industry, making it very successful.

Powell explained companies drilling for natural gas are not as concerned about exploration at this stage, and are now concentrating on production and ensuring that wells are running efficiently.

Powell was questioned about concerns involving well water contamination, and she assured the audience that stricter rules on disposal of frack water and required groundwater testing before drilling even begins will be enforced by the newly formed Chapter 78 of the state boom in the past years, there is still room for expansion, and drillers are now looking to tap into the Utica Shale, located deeper than the Marcellus in area north of Lycoming County.

New Pig Energy's exhibit was outside the exhibit hall, and also set up a Kids Zone that included a duck pond and a sprinkler pit – appropriate for a humid Saturday with temps that hit the upper 80s.

"This is the second year that we had the duck pond full of rubber duckies," Powell said, adding that even her own children enjoyed the Kids Zone. "The sprinkler pit was great entertainment."

Powell said she also enjoyed being on the "Change is Good" panel and discussing the type of



Photo courtesy of New Pig Energy

A little girl plays in New Pig Energy's duck pond which shows off the company's well pad liners. The duck pond was part of the New Pig Energy exhibit at the PA Energy Games.



Photo by Julie Benamati

Marcellus Business Central hosted a "Change is Good" panel discussion at the PA Energy Games at the Lycoming County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 6 with Beth Powell, VP & GM of New Pig Energy; Sandy Spencer of Appellation Pre-Fab; and Jim Ladlee, Associate Director at Penn State Marcellus Center. Publisher David Wells moderated the discussion.

relationships that are successful in the oil & gas industry.

"The event had a good mix of

turnout – operators, suppliers, service companies, landowners and residents," Powell said. ■