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**Chester Countians Compete
In State 4-H Horse Show**

Months of intensive practice and competition in local, county and district shows paid off for a number of Chester County 4-H members last week when they won awards at the State 4-H Horse Show in Harrisburg.

Shauna O'Connor, Avondale, placed third in Working Hunter Ponies and sixth in Junior Division - Hunt Seat Equitation over Jumps.

Second place ribbons went to Karen Mest, Pottstown, in Senior Division Hunt Seat Equitation over Jumps and Pam Taws,

Paoli, in Open Trail. Loretta Chicarelli, Lafayette Hill, placed third in Working Hunter Horses, Frances Dunn, Chester Springs, placed fourth in Senior Division Hunt Seat Equitation and Melissa Kratz, Pottstown, placed fifth in Senior Division Hunter Seat Equitation over Jumps

Other county horse club members competing in the State 4-H Show were Cynthia and Stephen Winckelman, Malvern

Riders and their horses, all winners in county and district elimination shows, were entered in 27 different classes with members from each district in the Commonwealth competing. Approximately 380 contestants participated in the show.

The primary purposes of the State 4-H Horse program are to develop riding skills, gain self-confidence by competing in shows, receive training in leadership and citizenship and learn the meaning of responsibility by caring for an animal. The classes in the state contest gave members an opportunity to display their skills in horsemanship and ability to groom a horse for showing.

The State Show climaxes the year for more than 6000 Commonwealth 4-H members enrolled in the horse project. More information about 4-H and the horse project in Chester County may be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Extension Office, Room 402 North Wing, Courthouse, West Chester.

**Agronomist Cautions
Against Improper
Fertilizer Application**

University of Illinois agronomist, L. F. Welch, speaking at the annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, said that the use of fertilizer in crop production today is a must if we are to produce adequate supplies of food at a reasonable cost to the consumer.

The soil is one of our most valuable natural resources which must be conserved and maintained in a productive state for eons to come. Welch said the American farmer often treated the soil harshly in earlier years as it was exploited of nutrients necessary for plant growth.

The earlier trend of nutrient depletion of soil is being reversed today, he said, and fertilizer made it all possible. Fertilizer is added to supply the nutrients removed from the soil in harvested crops and to restore part of that removed in earlier years.

The use of fertilizer has resulted in restoring soil productivity to the extent that many soils will produce more food today than when they were first plowed by our forefathers. By increasing crop yields with fertilizer, less land is required to produce a given amount of food for parks, golf courses, homes, and other nonagricultural uses.

But, Welch cautioned, fertilizer cannot be used with reckless abandon. Some of the nutrients in fertilizer may degrade water quality. Research is underway to determine fertilizer management practices that will permit society to continue to reap the benefits of increased food production without impairing the quality of our water.

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