

## Area 4-Hers Express What 4-H Means To Me

**UNIVERSITY PARK** - Four Adams County young adults, who have compiled outstanding records in 4-H work, were recently named state contest winners in the 1975 4-H National Awards program.

They are Susan R. Benner, 18, of Gettysburg, R1, dairy foods winner; David J. Renaut, 16, of South Queen St., Abbottstown, winner in citizenship; Mark H. Crouse, 17, of Littlestown R2, winner in bicycle; and Debbie Reichart, 18, of Littlestown R2, state beef winner.

Susan Benner, Debbie Reichart, and David Renaut will receive expense-paid trips to National 4-H Congress in Chicago, November 30-December 4. Mark Crouse will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond and will be eligible to attend Congress and all will compete for awards at the national level.

Support of the dairy foods program is provided by the Carnation Company; bicycle by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company; and beef by the Celanese Chemical Company.

Mr. Carroll L. Howes, associate 4-H youth division leader at The Pennsylvania State University, who announced the award selections, said the four were judged on the basis of project work, leadership ability, and participation in county and state events.

The winners were picked from among the 145,000 youth who annually take part in the Extension Service 4-H education program.

### Susan Benner

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Ewadin Benner, Susan is a freshman at Messiah College. She has been a 4-H member for eight years.

A member of the Adams County 4-H Dairy Club, Mt. Joy Agricultural Club, and Barlow 4-H Home Economics Club, she served as president, vice president,

secretary, treasurer, news reporter, game leader, and song leader. She also assists as a project leader.

The state dairy foods winner completed projects in dairy, foods, veterinary science, health, bicycle, teen leadership, nutrition, recreation, gardening, conservation, and clothing.

In Adams County, she took part in the achievement night, roundup, officers training, alumni day, demonstration day, and fun night.



Susan Benner

Susan also participated in the Regional 4-H Teen Leaders Retreat, Central District 4-H Leaders Forum, Regional 4-H Demonstration Day, District 4-H Dairy Show, Pennsylvania 4-H Leadership Congress, State 4-H Achievement Days, Pennsylvania Farm Show, Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives Summer Youth Institute, and Citizenship Short Course.

She was recipient of the Rose Murren Leadership Award, Outstanding 4-H Dairy Member Award, Atlantic Breeders Award, and God, Home and County Award.

"4-H has given me leadership responsibility and has helped me to decide upon a career," she pointed out.

### David J. Renaut

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Renaut, David is a senior at the New Oxford

High School. He has been a 4-H member four years.

A member of the Abbottstown 4-H Community Club and Adams County 4-H Recreation Club, he served as president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. He also assists with club events as a teen leader.



David Renaut

The state citizenship winner completed projects in conservation, gardening, flowers, photography, teen leadership, and wildlife conservation.

He assisted with the Adams County 4-H achievement night, roundup, day camp, officers training, demonstration night, and leaders banquet.

David also took part in the Regional 4-H Demonstration Day, District 4-H Camp, Regional 4-H Teen Leaders Retreat, Pennsylvania 4-H Leadership Congress, State 4-H Achievement Days, and State 4-H Capital Days.

"While dealing with community projects through 4-H, I have gained a lot of knowledge concerning community and governmental affairs," he said.

### Mark Crouse

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Crouse, Mark is a freshman at the Mont Alto Campus of The Pennsylvania State University. He has been a 4-H member for 10 years.

A member of the Mt. Pleasant 4-H Club, he served

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# History of 4-H, rich and varied

## Early Development of 4-H

What is now known as 4-H work had its roots in developments of the last decade of the 19th century. For the first time, educators were beginning to stress the needs of young people. Progressive educators in town and city schools were introducing nature study into the curriculum. Cornell University was encouraging nature study as the basis of a better agricultural education. School gardens were attracting attention in many places throughout the country. Rural educators, in response to a demand from farm people, introduced subjects which taught boys and girls to appreciate rural life and emphasized rural opportunities, thus encouraging an understanding of life in the country. Also during this period, boys' and girls' clubs and leagues were being organized in schools and churches to meet various other needs.

Exhibits and manuals found in a library in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., established 1856 as the date of a corn-growing contest conducted there for boys. The record and story written by young Franklin Spaulding of East Otto, N. Y., and the exhibit of Dutton yellow corn he entered at the Watertown Fair would be considered an acceptable 4-H project today. This contest was sponsored by Horace Greeley, famed newspaper editor.

Professor Liberty Hyde Bailey of Cornell University in 1898 inaugurated a system of junior naturalist leaflets for use in rural schools and helped organize nature study clubs. Since many of the rural teachers had had little preparation for teaching agricultural subjects, the experiment stations of the various State agricultural

colleges furnished information.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, agricultural college professors in nearly all States were organizing "Farmers' Institutes" meetings to bring the latest scientific agricultural information to farmers and their wives. They soon recognized the need to provide also some instruction in agriculture for farm boys and girls as well as interesting them in rural life. Farmers' institutes in many States cooperated with county school superintendents in promoting various production contests, soil tests, and plant identification as a means of interesting the young people. Results indicated there was much to be learned about nature study and agriculture outside the schoolroom — on the farms and in the homes of the boys and girls.

One farmers' institute in Macoupin County, Ill., attracted a great deal of attention through the participation of farm boys in a corn growing project. In 1900, W. B. Otwell furnished each of 500 boys with a small package of seed corn. They were to grow the corn and exhibit it for prizes at the next farmers' institute. No organization or instruction was provided.

## In Several Places

### About the Same Time

In January, 1902, A. B. Graham, superintendent of schools in Clark County, Ohio, organized a boys' and girls' agricultural club in Springfield Township. The program consisted of growing corn, planting a garden, testing soil, club meetings, visits to club members' plots, and an exhibit. In February, 1902, Superintendent O. J. Kern, who was promoting the improvement of rural schools in Winnebago County, Ill., organized a farmers' boys experiment club in co-operation with the agricultural college. About 1903, the Texas Farmers' Congress sponsored the Farmers' Boys and Girls League. In Iowa, a boys' and girls' agricultural club was organized in March, 1904, by County Superintendent of Schools Cap E. Miller at Sigourney, Keokuk County.

Work with farm boys in Illinois reached a spectacular climax at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, Mo., in 1904, when 8,000 Illinois farm boys contributed to the corn exhibit at the Palace of Agriculture. About this time the Ohio State Federation of Rural Schools' Agricultural Clubs was organized, and the members received printed directions and report sheets issued by the Agricultural Students' Union of the State college of agriculture.

In 1904, T. A. Erickson, then superintendent of schools in Douglas County, Minn., spent \$20 of his meager salary to buy seed for one of the first corn growing contests involving youth of that county. He led the development in Minnesota and became its first State 4-H Club Leader.

The work of O. H. Benson, county superintendent of

schools in Wright County, Iowa, led directly to the development of the present 4-H Club emblem.

During the early development of boll weevil control in the South, Dr. Seaman A. Knapp of the U. S. Department of Agriculture encouraged the formation of boys' corn clubs. The first boys' and girls' demonstration clubs were organized in 1907 in Holmes County, Miss., by W. H. Smith, a school superintendent who was later employed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to further boys' and girls' club work. In March, 1909, O. B. Martin, former State superintendent of schools in South Carolina, was employed by Dr. Knapp to help develop home demonstration and boys' and girls' clubs in the Southern States.

Girls' canning clubs originated in Aiken County, S. C., early in 1910. In December, 1909, Marie Cromer, teacher of a rural school, represented Aiken County, at the annual session of the school improvement association. At this meeting, she contacted a representative of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to discuss development of a club program suited to girls.

From these illustrations, you can see that 4-H began not as the idea of any one individual, but grew out of situations existing throughout the country.

The fundamental principle behind this activity was to extend agricultural education to rural young people by organizing boys and girls into clubs and through "learning by doing."

## Ties to Land-Grant Universities and USDA

The State land-grant universities' agricultural colleges and the U. S. Department of Agriculture kept in close contact with the development of this new type of education. The land-grant institutions recommended organizing a distinct administrative division in each land-grant institution to direct the many agricultural extension activities that were developing. By 1912, virtually all of the land-grant institutions in the Southern States had signed cooperative agreements with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and had organized Extension departments.

## Early Organization

The way of a new type of education was not easy. One major difficulty in the early organization of boys' and girls' club work was the lack of trained leadership to handle local club organization and programs.

The idea that information developed in a college or experiment station was not applicable to local situations was prevalent. Then, too, agricultural science had not established itself in the minds of a great many people. Many thought that agricultural skills and techniques could only be acquired by practical farmers. Overcrowded school curriculums made it difficult to inject another program.

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## York County Dairy Team Places High

York County Dairy Judging team represented Pennsylvania recently at the Virginia State Fair and the Pennsylvania All-American. At Richmond the team placed 4th overall. Cindy Knight was the high individual in the contest in giving reasons and placed 5th overall while Cindy Rutter placed sixth. At the Pennsylvania All-American the team placed 4th out of 12 teams and was high team in judging

Brown Swiss; and third in Holsteins and Guernseys. Cindy Knight was 5th high individual overall as well as in reasons and Brown Swiss. Members of the team are (from left): Ronald Horn, Dover; Director of Pennsylvania All-American; Cindy Rutter, York, Paul Knight, Airville; Cindy Knight, Airville; Leonard Greek, Delta; and Coaches - David Norman, York, Ass't. Co. Agri. Agent; and Paul Knight, Delta.