

Berks and Lebanon conduct FFA contests

LEESPORT — In a combined effort to expose students to diverse areas of agriculture, Berks and Lebanon area vocational agriculture teachers directed competition in six different contests at the Berks County agricultural center.

In the largest contest, 84 students participated in the dairy cattle judging. Scott Hauseman, Oley, placed

first with Dave Bamgardner, Annville-Cleona, taking second.

Tim Kurtz of Twin Valley took third, Steve Snyder of Twin Valley fourth, and Gary Mase of Annville-Cleona fifth.

In team competition, Oley Valley's team composed of Scott Hauseman, Steve Shaw, and Gary Hauseman finished first with a combined score of 686 points;

narrowly edging out Twin Valley's team of Tim Kurtz, Steve Snyder, and Don Stoltzfus who finished with a combined score of 685 points.

Eastern Lebanon County's team of John Kline, John Arnold and Patti Heilinger placed third with 673 points. Tulpehocken's team of Penny Bicksler, Laura Miller and Joy Nolt finished a close fourth with 671 points; and Annville-

Cleona's team of Dave Bamgardner, Gary Mase and Scott Eckenrode finished fifth with 667 points.

The meats contest, requiring identification of various retail cuts of meat was won by Donna Devine of Twin Valley, with Darlene Dietrich of Hamburg second. Bill Kirk of Twin Valley third, Dan Seamen of Northern Lebanon fourth, and Scott Stoltzfus of Twin Valley fifth.

Placing first out of 30 contestants in the Pleasure Horse Judging Contest was Linda Robinson of Twin Valley. Other placings were: second, Sue Ford of Twin Valley, third, Ginger Sowers of Annville Cleona, fourth Diane Stoltzfus of Twin Valley, and fifth, Beth Young of Annville Cleona.

Dan Miller of Northern Lebanon captured first place in the agricultural mechanics contest where contestants were required to demonstrate mechanical skills in concrete and masonry, electrical motors and controls, and agricultural power. Placing second was Dean Bruno of Kutztown, with Gary Degler of Conrad Weiser, third, Robert Kreider of Annville Cleona fourth, and Doug Blauch of Northern Lebanon fifth.

Twenty five students competed in the dairy foods contest where members had

to identify different cheeses, identify and score defects in milk and cottage cheese, and grade milk sediment filters as well as take a written test. Don Kercher of Twin Valley placed first, Tom Auman of Conrad Weiser was second, Mike Marino of Twin Valley third, Paul Stoltz of Northern Lebanon fourth, and Shawn McCord of Twin Valley fifth.

The agronomy contest tested students' abilities to identify weeds, insects and

diseases of farm crops; use of the agronomy guide issued yearly by Penn State; interpretation and completion of soil and forage analysis tests; and judging of hay quality.

Gerald Haas of Kutztown finished first of 21 contestants. Second place went to Roger Stoltzfus of Twin Valley with Jeff Riegel of Annville Cleona third, Tom Snyder of Twin Valley fourth, and fifth Don Adams of Kutztown.

Farm woodlots can yield half a cord per acre

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Firewood is a useful byproduct for woodlot owners thinning out their trees, says John F. Kundt, Extension forestry specialist and associate professor of horticulture at the University of Maryland.

Kundt reports that the average rate of tree growth in a Maryland hardwood forest is half a cord per acre per year.

With proper thinning, those trees that are crooked, diseased and otherwise less desirable, can be removed for firewood. This will allow remaining trees to mature into more valuable specimens than would otherwise be the case.

Trees which are desirable for lumber and other manufacturing purposes

include black walnut, oaks, tuliptree, white ash, sycamore, and American elm. Nearly any large, straight tree is probably more valuable for lumber than for firewood. An owner may wish to select for one or two varieties of lumber-type trees in his woodlot.

Kundt recommends obtaining the services of a professional forester to designate which trees should be thinned out. These trees can be marked and then cut as you need them.

Remaining trees will benefit from the extra space and light. Your county extension agent can put you in touch with a forestry consultant.

In addition to the preceding recommendations

for tree farming, there are certain esthetic considerations. You may wish to leave trees such as flowering dogwood and sweetgum for their beauty, especially if within sight of your house.

Wildlife, too, should be considered in managing your woodlot. Dr. Kundt leaves some standing dead trees in his woodlot for the benefit of woodpeckers and other cavity-nesting birds, including bluebirds.

Clusters of fruiting shrubs can also be planted for the benefit of birds, both on the outer edges of your woodlot and in open spaces within the woodlot. Suitable shrubs include bush honeysuckle, arrowwood, chokeberry and wild plum.



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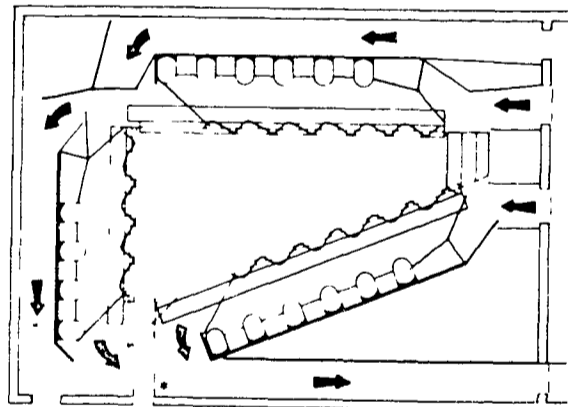
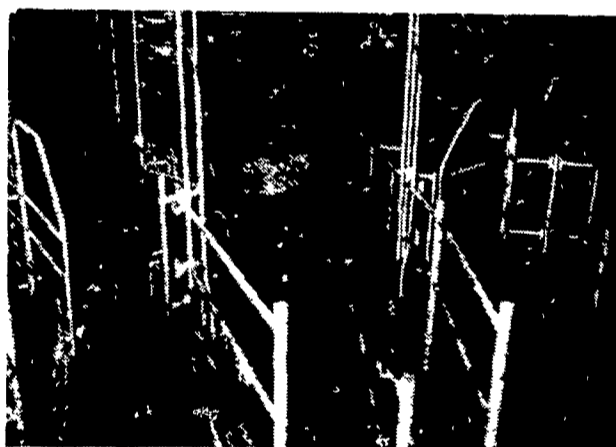
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