

Ag society honors Best of New Holland

UNIVERSITY PARK — Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society of agriculture, cited outstanding alumni, faculty, and students during the chapter's annual banquet held recently at Penn State.

Alumni honored for attainments, and taken into membership, were Albert M. Best, Director of Research for Sperry New Holland at New Holland, and Robert H. Hodge, owner of Highland Orchards, Inc., of West Chester.

A graduate of the class of 1942, Best is president of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. In 1979 he led a delegation of engineers on a 21 day and 5,000 mile trip to exchange mechanization technology with industrial leaders of China.

At Sperry New Holland he

has overall responsibility for developing programs to improve existing equipment and for providing data to support recommendations on new equipment.

In the class of 1956, Hodge owns and operates Highland Orchards, along with his family. The farm orchards and roadside market are diverse, large, and successful.

With the exception of apples and peaches, nearly 100 per cent of the fruit, sweet corn, and other vegetables are marketed at the 600 acre farm. The "pick your own" system markets strawberries, peaches, nectarines, grapes, and other crops.

A former Pennsylvania Outstanding Young Farmer, Hodge was named a Master Farmer in 1980.

Honored for exceptional

service in research with the College of Agriculture was Earl M. Kesler, professor of dairy science. His research with high-producing cows was described as "setting a standard for other studies throughout the world."

His findings in calf nutrition have led to modern feeding programs used today. Some of his innovative work includes use of waste milk for feeding calves, production of veal with milk replacers, and protein and energy levels for high producing cows.

Honored for outstanding teaching was James H. Mortensen, associate professor of agricultural education. He is responsible for Penn State's undergraduate program for young people planning to teach vocational agriculture.

Cited for achievements with the Cooperative Extension Service was Richard S. Adams, professor of dairy science extension. He is considered to be a national authority on feeding dairy cattle for maximum milk production. The large increase in milk production per cow in Pennsylvania since 1960, it was stated, has been influenced by his teaching and writing.

Lori F. Fehr, of Pine Grove, received the senior scholarship award. Fehr is majoring in horticulture.

The junior citation went to each of three students, Kathleen J. Schiever of R.D. 2, Harmony; Marie I. Weber



Penn State alumni honored for achievements and initiated into Gamma Sigma Delta honor society of agriculture recently, were Albert M. Best, left, director of research for Sperry New Holland at New Holland, and Robert H. Hodge, center, owner of Highland Orchards, Inc., of West Chester. They are shown with Milton C. Hallberg, right, retiring president of the society.

of St. Clair; and Laura L. Wenberger of R.D.1 Clinton. Schiever is majoring in dairy production while both Weber and Wenberger are majoring in animal bioscience.

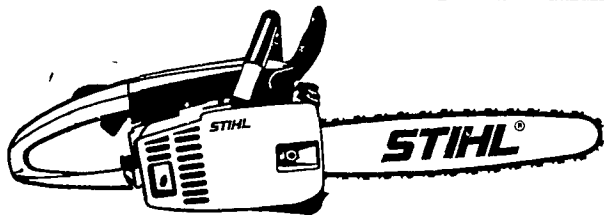
Russell C. Lloyd of Perkaspie won the sophomore scholarship award. Lloyd is majoring in general agriculture.

Faculty members initiated

into Gamma Sigma Delta were Richard H. Fox, associate professor of soil science; Robert O. Herrman, professor of agricultural economics; Roland M. Leach, professor of poultry science; David R. MacKenzie, associate professor of plant pathology; and Richard F. Stinson, professor of agricultural education and horticulture.

Elected officers for 1980-1981 are: president, John H. Zeigler, professor of meat science; vice-president, Marion R. Deppen, assistant director of the Cooperative Extension Service, Capital Region; secretary-treasurer, Thomas L. Merritt, professor of animal science; and historian, Samuel H. Smith, head and professor of plant pathology.

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Close mowing is murder on lawns

LITITZ — The height you mow may very well determine the life of the grass in your lawn. Mowing the Kentucky bluegrass/red fescue type lawn closer than 1 1/2 inches gradually weakens and eventually kills the grass. The end result is a thinned out lawn infested with a variety of weeds.

Close cutting neither looks more attractive nor lessens the number of times a lawn must be mowed. Evenness of cut rather than closeness makes a lawn attractive. Close cutting does not permit the lawn to manufacture the food it needs for building strong deep root systems and a dense sod.

For the Kentucky bluegrass/red fescue type lawn, the mower should be set to cut the grass at a height of 1 1/2 to 2 inches. This includes Merion Kentucky bluegrass. The 2 inch height is the most desirable height of cut during the year.

In contrast, certain types of lawn grasses are well

adapted for close mowing. Zoysia should be cut at a height of one-half to 1 inch. Mowing is necessary for a properly groomed lawn. Be kind and considerate of the tolerance of the grass. Give it a chance with a properly adjusted and sharp-bladed mower set at the correct height.

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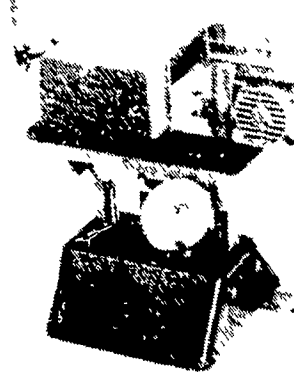
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