

Berks County honors top 4-H shepherds



Robert Herr, speaker; Andy MacKay, Master of Ceremonies; Valerie Ernst, exhibitor of the grand champion market lamb; and Fred Bube, reserve champion, pose at the Berks 4-H sheep banquet.

Truck farmer

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The family also rent 150 acres and raises 50 acres of field corn as a cash corn. Wilcox says he wouldn't consider buying any more land because housing demands in the area have pushed prices to the \$1500 to \$2500 per acre range.

"Because we have enough land, I'm not as concerned as many farmers about land

prices," he said.

"We double-crop most of our vegetables and we could always pull the 50 acres out of field corn. Our cabbage is grown in four-foot rows. We could narrow them up."

With higher than average start-up costs, Wilcox says he depends on a PCA line of credit for production capital.

Looking to the future, Wilcox sees demand for his

products increasing.

"It's not just in having more customers, but also in what people are eating, he said.

Take eggplant - it didn't used to sell but now you can sell all you can pick. Vegetables are definitely good for you and people are willing to pay for a good product.

"We get to meet a lot of people," he added smiling. "It's a lot of fun."

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER
Staff Correspondent

LEESPORT — Berks County 4-H Sheep and Lamb Club held their first awards banquet last Friday at the Berks County Agricultural Center.

Highlighting the evening were the presentation of awards and trophies to 4-H members and guest speaker, Robert Herr, Agricultural Chairman of Garden Spot High School.

Herr discussed the sheep industry in general and as 4-H projects. The awards presented to the 4-H

members were earned during the County Round-up held earlier in the season.

Valerie Ernst, Sinking Spring was cited for her Grand Champion Market Lamb by Mr. and Mrs. Ian MacKay, Boyertown; while Fred Bube was presented with an award for exhibiting the Reserve Grand Champion by Fisher Home Improvement, Robesonia.

Other award recipients were: Lisa Bube - champion senior fitter and reserve senior showman; Liane Haas, Douglasville - reserve senior fitter and champion

senior showman; Elhane Heffner, Fleetwood - champion intermediate fitter and reserve intermediate showman; James Heffner, Fleetwood - reserve intermediate fitter and champion intermediate showman; Fred Bube - champion junior fitter; Glenn Heffner, Fleetwood - reserve junior fitter; Wendy Racher, Bart - champion junior showman; Marianne Yanos, Douglasville - reserve junior showman.

These awards were sponsored by: Weber

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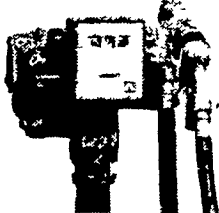
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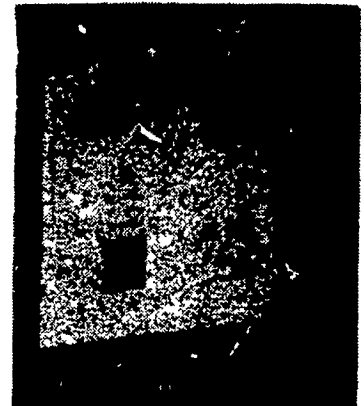
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