

## Dairy specialist is Md. 4-H alumni winner

COLLEGE PARK, Md — A retired University of Maryland Extension dairy cattle specialist has been selected as that state's 4-H alumni recognition award winner for 1982. He is John L. Morris of Braddock Heights.

Morris was honored during the third annual Maryland State 4-H Conference last month at Chestertown. The award is presented each year to former 4-H members who have demonstrated effective leadership and success in their adult lives.

With 100,000 former 4-H members in the state, being signed out for the alumni recognition award is a real honor, notes Norman G. Smith, state Extension 4-H leader for agricultural programs at the University of Maryland.

In presenting the bronze plaque, Smith noted that, during 27 years with the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, "John Morris earned a reputation among youth workers and show-ring contestants as one of the most outstanding dairy cattle professionals in the United States."

Morris is credited with initiating many innovative youth programs which were adopted both in Maryland and in other states across the nation.

"He produced excellent 4-H dairy project materials, and he helped to expand the programs to include dairy steers and dairy goats. Through his leadership, the Maryland Mid-Atlantic 4-H and FFA Dairy Conference was begun, and it has continued on an annual basis for the past 13 years.

"He was also instrumental in developing the 4-H Dairy Adventures project to be used by urban youth."

Morris is recognized internationally for his expertise in dairy cattle judging. While at the University of Maryland, he coached 26 state 4-H dairy cattle judging teams. Thirteen of these teams won the national contest, and many others placed second or third in national competition.

He accompanied national champion 4-H teams from Maryland to Great Britain on three occasions—1951, 1956 and 1958—and each year his teams won the international youth dairy cattle judging contests at the Royal Agricultural Show.

Since his retirement in 1977, Morris has served as secretary of the Maryland Holstein-Friesian Association, Inc., and he has continued to judge major dairy cattle shows throughout the nation. He is also an official type classifier for the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association.

Morris helps to manage dairy cattle sales throughout the East in association with Remsburg Sale Service of Jefferson, Md. He recently conducted training sessions in dairy cattle judging for 4-H members in several Mid-Atlantic states.

He is a member of the board of directors for the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, and he holds a similar position with the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation.

Morris was elected in 1973 to the statewide dairymen's hall of fame near Frederick by the Maryland Dairy Shrine.

Other honors include the Excellence in Extension award in 1974 from the College of Agriculture alumni chapter of the University of Maryland Alumni Association-International and the 1974 Certificate of Recognition award from the Maryland Tau chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, a national professional fraternity for Extension workers.

Upon his retirement from the University of Maryland in 1977, the Board of Regents conferred on him the honorary title of principal specialist emeritus. Also in 1977, the Maryland Artificial Breeding Cooperative presented a \$7,500 check to the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation for establishment of a John L. Morris Dairy Youth Fund.

In 1979, the Future Farmers of America awarded him the

honorary American Farmer degree at the organization's national conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Born on a farm near Chestertown, Morris spent six years as a 4-H member in Baltimore and Cecil counties. He is a graduate of McDonogh high school in the Baltimore area. He holds a B.S. degree from Iowa State University and an M.S. degree from the University of Delaware.

As a 4-H member, Morris was a member of the Maryland team which competed in the national 4-H dairy cattle judging contest in 1931. As a collegian, he was a member of the Iowa State team which won the national collegiate dairy cattle judging contest in 1942 during the national Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo, Iowa.

From 1946 to 1950, he served as an Atlantic Seaboard field representative for the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

Morris and his wife, Martha, are the parents of four grown sons. Three of the sons received college degrees in dairy science and are currently involved with dairy farming.

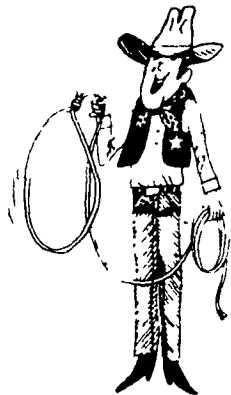


John L. Morris, left, of Braddock Heights received congratulations after being announced as Maryland 4-H alumni recognition award winner for 1982. Extending the handshake is Harvey W. Shelton, interim assistant director of the statewide Cooperative Extension Service for 4-H and youth programs at the University of Maryland. Morris received his plaque during third annual Maryland State 4-H Conference, held last month at Chestertown. Morris was born on a farm near Chestertown.

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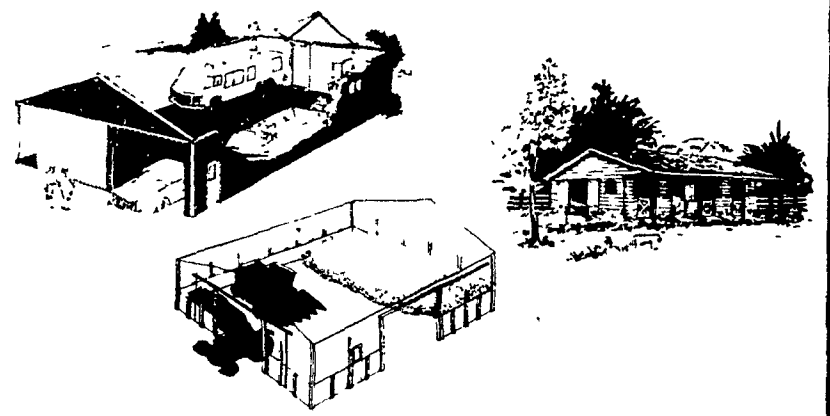
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