

Eastern Lancaster County sweeps FFA poultry awards



York County's high team from Eastern with Bob Garland, Hubbard, includes, from the left, Glenn Burtner, James Hall and Peggy Kleindienst.



Three highest individual scorers in poultry judging are shown with Allen Tate, of Victor F. Weaver's. They are, from the left, Jim Weidman, third; Mike Smoker, second; and Nelson Horning, third.



Second-place Grassland team includes, from the left, Jim Weidman, Lisa Heft and Dave Fisher.



NEW HOLLAND — Eastern Lancaster County FFA'ers swept all of the top placings in the annual poultry judging competition held last Saturday.

Members of the Grassland FFA, Eastern Lancaster County, comprised the top three teams among Lancaster County participants, also made up the top team in the tri-county competition that included teams from York and Berks and placed seven of the top 10 individuals, including the top three.

Members of the first-place Grassland team were Kent Halsey, Nelson Horning and Mike Smoker, which was also the top tri-county team. Horning and Smoker were the top two scoring individuals, too.

The second-place Grassland team included Jim Weidman, Lisa Heft and Dave Fisher. The third-place Grassland team was made up of Wade Martin, Joan Feinour and Matt Seifrit.

The fourth-place Lancaster County team hailed from Cloister Chapter, Ephrata, and the fifth-place from Penn Manor. Also competing were contestants from Elizabethtown.

Individual placings behind Horning and Smoker in the top two spots included Jim Weidman, Grassland; Kent Halsey, Grassland; Greg Musser, Elizabethtown; Steve Fox, Ephrata; Wade Martin, Grassland; Matt Seifrit, Grassland; Dan Hartzler, Elizabethtown; and Dave Fisher, Grassland.

Among the Berks County competitors, Oley Valley had the top team and Twin Valley was second. Members of the top Oley Valley team were Courdian Fisher, Kirk Fisher and Dean Willman.

Among the York County competitors the top team came from Eastern, including Glenn Burtner, James Hall and Peggy Kleindienst. Teams also took part from Dover and Red Lion.



Top Lancaster County and Tri-County team receives trophy from Walt Mowrer, of the Lancaster County Poultry Association. Team members, from the left, are Kent Halsey, Nelson Horning and Mike Smoker.



Berks County winning team from Oley Valley with Bob Garland, of Hubbard, includes, from the left, Courdian Fisher, Kirk Fisher, and Dean Williams.

Assisting with the judging were Jay Irwin, Lancaster County Extension Director; Jim Wolfe, of Wolfe Eggs; Bob Woodward, Pennfield; Hilma Mumma, of Longenecker's; Clay Mumma, DeKalb; Walt Mowrer, of the Lancaster County Poultry Association; Rick Meck, of Hy-Line; Bob Garland, of Hubbard;

Shirley Fetters, of Wolfe Eggs; Eugene Hebert, USDA; Ralph Griffith, Weaver's Quality Eggs; Herb Jordan, Penn State; and Allan Tate, of Victor F. Weaver's. Sponsors of trophies and awards include the Poultry Association; Weaver's and Hubbard.

A total of 48 FFA contestants from the three counties took part.

Extension offers manure program

UNIVERSITY PARK — Manure management and disposal to avoid environmental pollution has been one of the most difficult problems Pennsylvania's livestock industry has had to face.

Spiraling costs of manure storage facilities designed to eliminate daily spreading is making it more difficult for the family farm to stay in business. Most farmers are aware of the environmental pollution problems that improper manure management can create, but they need help in learning how to solve these problems, said Robert Graves, Extension agricultural engineer at Penn State.

With the adoption of uniform guidelines concerning manure management for environmental protection, Extension Service staff members are assisting farmers in developing a total waste management concept that will enable them to use their time and resources more efficiently.

County Extension agents and Penn State College of Agriculture specialists have been able to demonstrate that properly designed earth bank storages costing between \$5,000 and \$7,000 are just as satisfactory as concrete and steel structures priced at \$20,000 and more.

"As a result, many farmers who could not afford the more expensive types are now building the less expensive structures," Graves noted. "This has made more capital available for other purposes, increase net farm income, and reduced some of the water pollution problems that were attributed to runoff from fields

where the customary practice was to apply manure daily."

Although the true value of stored manure depends on many variables, farmers who follow Extension's recommendations experience a substantial savings in fertilizer costs.

A Washington County farmer who wanted to learn more about the value of stored manure asked Extension personnel to analyze the stored manure to determine nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium content. He also had the cropland's soil tested to find out the fertilizer requirements for anticipated yields of certain crops. This farmer then applied manure on these fields at the rates necessary to satisfy the equivalent fertilizer requirements.

"His yield data show that stored manure retained a larger percentage of plant nutrients and that

it was worth more in dollars than the manure spread every day," said Douglas Beegle, Penn State Extension agronomist.

This farmer's records indicated that the use of stored manure on 175 acres of corn and alfalfa saved him about \$4,000 because he did not have to purchase an equivalent amount of plant food in commercial fertilizer.

The manure analysis pilot program, similar to the soil testing service, is designed to provide information farmers will use to develop and improve manure management programs.

It also enables farmers to calculate the amount of plant nutrients that is being applied with manure and how much supplemental fertilizer, based on soil test, will be required to produce a desired crop.

Hike seen in sow farrowings

DES MOINES, Ia. — Sow farrowings are expected to increase 4.7% in 1983, according to a survey released by the National Pork Producers Council.

The survey taken in late February was designed to determine farrowing intentions, and growth by type of operation.

Based on nearly 2,000 responses, the results showed:

(1) Farrowings can be anticipated to increase 4.7%.

(2) More than half of this 1983 growth can be traced to farrowing intentions of feeder pig producers.

(3) Among all types of

operations, the major change will be seen in the number of sows farrowed. Two times in 1983 rather than only once as in 1982.

(4) The most dramatic increases in production (especially so for feeder pig operations) will be noted in sow herds of 100 or more that farrow two times in 1983.

(5) Decreases in 1983 production and farrowing are evident across the board among all pork producers with small herds.

(6) Production levels for 1983 in major pork producing states range from increases of 2.2% to 16.4%, to average a projected farrowing increase of 4.7%.