

Crawford Farm Council honors 'the best'

By NANCY KUNICK
Staff Correspondent
SAEGERTOWN — The Crawford County Council of Farm Organizations held their annual awards and recognition banquet Thursday, Sept. 29 in Saegertown. Each of the 24 farm associations

that comprise the council were represented. Among those that participate are breed associations, maple and wool growers associations, dairy and crop improvement associations, beekeepers, auctioneers, etc. According to Jack Waddell,

former President of the Council, the group was formed in 1980 to enable each to work together for a more organized Farm-City Day and, as one large unit, to have more influence in county agriculture; Two major goals have been to improve facilities at the county fairgrounds and future construction of the more serviceable accommodations for the Cooperative Extension Service.

Following dinner served by the Saegertown American Legion Auxiliary, musical entertainment and comments by the commodity queens, awards were presented.

The first to be recognized were the Executive Directors of 1983 Farm-City Day held June 25 at the Crawford Co. Home Farm. President (of the CCCFO) Charles Black presented Jeff Allio and Ralph Hines with plaques for their outstanding service for organizing City Day. Each of the recipients expressed their gratitude to Charles Bruckner and Ken Custard for their cooperation at the Crawford County Home.

The next recipients were the hosts of Farm-City Day. This year's hosts were a bit unusual as the Home-Farm is owned by the County. County Commissioners Richard Ruhlman and Ivan Rose accepted the award on behalf of the county. Also honored was

General Manager of the Home-Farm Charles Bruckner. Leon Sweatman, incoming President of the CCCFO, spoke of Bruckner as being a "unique gentleman who

can be doing six things at once and still give a cool, calm answer to any problem." Bruckner thanked the commissioners for "being the

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Hall of Fame Award from Crawford Council of Farm Organizations is presented by Harold Hines, left, of Northwestern Rural Electric Co-op Assn., to Jack and Jean Rynd.



Ag Industry Award of Crawford Council of Farm Organizations was presented by Dave Reusing, right, of the NW Pa. Colored Breed Assn., to Stan Bradshaw, left, Production Credit president; and Hope Leise, of Federal Land Bank.

78 to dinner

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chens of the women of nearby Centre Presbyterian Church.

"They had been praying for a fund-raising idea to help supply some new equipment needs for the parish house," explained Gail. "Catering this was a perfect answer. While they sometimes have difficulty getting enough help, for church dinners everyone just pitched in to assist with whatever was needed."

Arranging of the food items, and the 78 people, took longer than had been anticipated, with gray, mist-laden clouds more threatening by the minute.

But by the time the full complement of foods graced the red-and-white cloth covered wagon, and each of the 78 was in just the

right spot, the skies suddenly lightened for several minutes while photographers clicked away. Soon after the last shot was made, the gray mist closed in again.

When all the picture-taking was finished, models and support crews turned their attention to the "groaning board" of food.

The colorful array of foods touched on nearly every segment of American food production, with about 70 pounds of meat, including two baked hams, a large cut of roast beef and a huge roasted turkey.

Tossed fresh vegetable salad, relish trays, scalloped and sweet potato casseroles, succotash, and baked beans represented vegetable producers. Trays of

deviled eggs, baskets filled with crackers, bread and rolls, with butter, rounded out the choices.

Plenty of desserts were on hand for those still hungry, after working their way across the table, with choices from assorted fresh orchard fruits, cheeses, ice cream, eight pies, three cakes and plenty of milk and cider to wash it all down.

Pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn and other seasonal produce added the final perfect background touch and brilliant color contrasts.

"When we first began calling to invite people from different professions to take part, their first reaction was 'You're doing what?'" commented Gail on the detailed arrangements of setting up the photo.

"Everyone came in just a wonderful mood, and they were such a great cross-section of people," she added.

Part of the credit for assembling the 78 representatives goes to 10-year-old Gretchen McPherson, who spent much of her spare time during the family's Labor Day Peachilicious weekend writing a listing of all the professions she could remember.

Inevitably, a few minor problems cropped up as the photo session drew closer.

About ten of those originally contacted to take part were unable to attend, forcing a few last minute substitutions.

The sticky problem of ice cream melting before the shutters snapped was solved with the temporary use of a white vegetable shortening stand-in, later replaced with a dish of the real thing.

Worries that the food would become sodden and stale in the humidity never materialized, and even the crackers kept their crunch under the clouds.

The McPhersons express special thanks to food producers who contributed items, including Green's Dairy of York, for dairy products, Seltzer's Bologna producers of Lancaster County, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture staffers who made contacts to a mushroom supplier.

It was Paul McPherson, reflecting back on the several days of hectic preparations and dread of a downpour any minute during the photo session, who had the final word.

"Farmers will do anything to get rain."



Awards for Farm-City Day were presented by Leon Sweatman, left incoming president of Crawford Council of Farm Organization, to, from the left, Charles Bruckner, manager of Crawford County Home-Farm; and County Commissioners Richard Ruhlman and Ivan Rose.



Vegetable relish tray is arranged by raincoat-clad Gail McPherson.



Ethelind Anderson scoops "shortening ice cream" for Farm Journal photo.