

McConnell gets Maple Producers award

FARM SHOW — Robert McConnell, Coudersport, was given the Award of Merit by the Pennsylvania Maple Producers Council at its annual meeting at the Pa. Farm Show.

Actively involved in producing pure maple syrup for 28 years, McConnell wholesales and retails syrup, cream and candy, and sells maple syrup equipment and supplies.

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Vocational Agriculture & FFA

A pioneer in the use of plastic tubing to collect maple sap, he assists others in installing the tubing so producers can learn how to get the best yield.

He was instrumental in organizing the Potter-Tioga Maple Syrup Producers Association in 1963. Appointed the organization's purchasing agent in 1964, he helped producers reduce their can costs by buying in bulk for members in the two county area.

In 1966, McConnell was one of the organizers of the Maple Festival in Potter County, which includes a tree-tapping ceremony, a queen contest and sale of a variety of maple products. Since the festival was initiated, there has been a marked reduction in the amount of syrup being shipped out of the area.

McConnell was appointed by the Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Council to help oversee grading and shipping syrup to Wisconsin markets. This marked the end of the high quality syrup being shipped from Pennsylvania to



Coudersport maple producer Robert McConnell was presented the Pa. Maple Producers Council's award of merit last week at the Pa. Farm Show. McConnell and his wife, Vera, display the trophy which they received from an association official.

other parts of the nation at relatively low prices.

McConnell is a charter member

of the state council and has served as secretary-treasurer. He regularly attends the North American Maple Syrup

Association's annual meetings. During Penn State's Ag Progress Days, he coordinated the maple syrup products sales booth.

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