

Md. ag alumni present honors



Donald A. Hegwood, rear center, dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Maryland in College Park, poses with five persons honored by the College of Agriculture Alumni Chapter. Shown with their award plaques are, from the left, Dennis P. Stimart of College Park (Prince Georges county) - "Excellence in Research"; Raymond R. Weil of University Hills (Prince Georges county) - "Excellence in Teaching"; Albin O. Kuhn of Woodbine (Carroll county) - "Meritorious Service to Agriculture," and Noah N. Ranells of New York City, "Outstanding Senior."

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — An animal science undergraduate student from New York City was among five persons honored recently during the annual fellowship night of the College of Agriculture chapter, University of Maryland Alumni Association International.

His aspirations to be a professional veterinarian were influenced by work with livestock on a part-time farm which the family owns near Newfoundland (Pike county) in the Pocono mountain area of northeast Pennsylvania.

Sixth in a family of seven children, Ranells paid his own way through four years at the University of Maryland with scholarships and student work-study programs which involved employment in the animal sciences department and the College Park campus of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

He has been active in various student clubs and served on several committees. Leadership positions have included being secretary of the Animal Husbandry Club (formerly Block and Bridle) and a member of the

Ag Student Life Committee. He is vice-president this year of the Ag Student Council.

On top of this, Ranells has maintained a 3.0 grade-point average — a necessity for students hoping to be admitted to a college of veterinary medicine. He is well-known and popular among fellow students as well as faculty members associated with the College of Agriculture.

Honored along with Ranells at last month's agricultural alumni fellowship night were three faculty members and a retired College of Agriculture alumnus.

They are as follows:

Excellence in Research — Dennis P. Stimart of College Park (Prince Georges county), an assistant professor of horticulture. Stimart is credited with professional achievements that have brought him national recognition in floriculture and ornamental horticulture research. In 1982 he received the Kenneth Post award from the American Society for Horticultural Science for outstanding research by a graduate student.

Excellent in Teaching — Raymond R. Weil of University Hills (Prince Georges county), an assistant professor of agronomy. Weil has been successful in showing students how soils relate to other areas of science and human affairs. He has a reputation as a role model and mentor to hundreds of students in the College of Agriculture. A native of Detroit, Mich., Weil is a former U.S. Peace Corps agricultural worker in Ephrata.

Excellence in Extension — JoAnne D. Leatherman of Damascus (Montgomery county), an Extension 4-H and youth agent in Frederick county. Holding both B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Maryland, Mrs. Leatherman was honored for her high level of commitment, dedication and professionalism. She has received numerous other awards, and she is a past president of the Maryland Association of Extension 4-H Agents. She is northeast regional contact person on the public information committee for the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

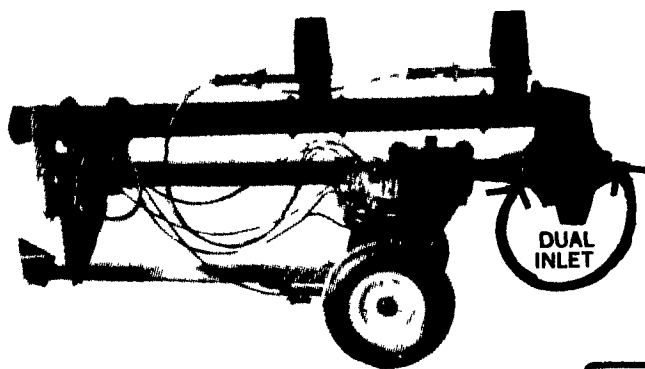
Meritorious Alumni Award — Albin O. Kuhn of Woodbine (Carroll county) was honored for long years of service to agriculture. Kuhn retired in 1982 after 44 years as a teacher and administrator at the University of Maryland. His administrative responsibilities included being agronomy department chairman at College Park; assistant vice-president; chancellor at both the Baltimore city and Baltimore county campuses, and executive vice-president for all four campuses. He holds B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural education and agronomy from the University of Maryland.

Reared on a Howard county dairy farm, Kuhn now operates a 200-acre commercial beef cattle farm on rolling land at the northeast edge of Woodbine. He has 30 Hereford brood cows. His present location is only a short distance across the county line from where he grew up.

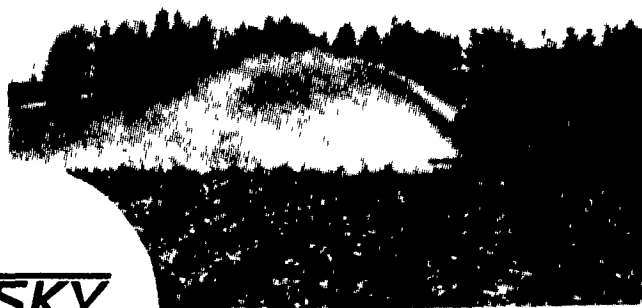
A veteran of many University of Maryland budget hearings before the Board of Regents and Maryland General Assembly, Kuhn is usually seen in farmer garb nowadays — sometimes mixing with the crowd at farmer educational meetings sponsored by the university's Cooperative Extension Service in Carroll county. In March, at age 68, he was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Southern States Cooperative farm supply store at Woodbine.

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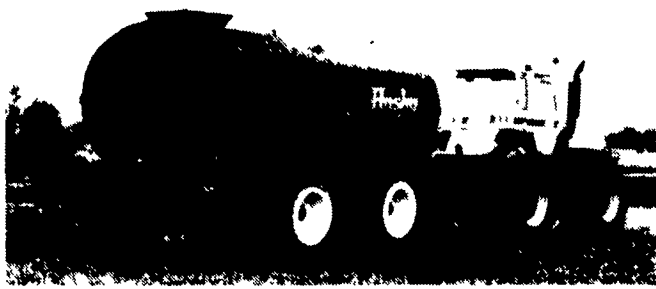
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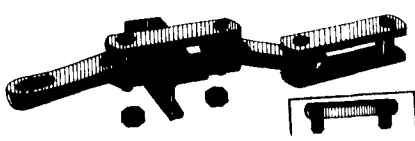
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