

Women get ag honors

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Commission for Women. The Commission for Women, director Christine Crist explained, is concerned with promoting an awareness of women's programs and in informing them of their legal rights.

Ms. Crist, one of six guest speakers, said that advancements have been made in better programs and better laws for women. These include such needs as financial aid, higher education and health and rape crisis centers.

The Commission is also working on ways to overcome discrimination in jobs and other areas where "outmoded limitations occur based on sex." Ms. Crist recalled her own experience as a newspaper reporter:

"As a reporter, I didn't get certain assignments because of overtime," she said explaining that the idea was to protect women from problems associated with working overtime. "What they did was protect you from opportunities and income."

Despite efforts to better programs, some injustices persist, Ms. Crist said. The problem is that "many women don't know what their legal rights are," she added.

The majority of women see problems of discrimination in advancement of jobs, said Bernadine Abad, director of Affirmative Action. This is in light of the fact that participation of women in the work force has increased steadily over the last six years, and women now make up 44 percent of the total working class.

Women are becoming more socially aware and politically involved, Ms. Abad said. "Women have always had greater representation in government than in the corporate world," she said. "Now they are moving into non-traditional roles."

Paying tribute to women in agriculture and those in non-traditional roles was one purpose of the "Women's Day in Agriculture" program. Recognition awards were presented to three agriculture organizations and four women employed in agribusiness.

The organizational awards, presented by Gretchen Vreeland, went to Ina Clarke Inc., Penns Agri-Women and the Society of Farm Women. Ina Clarke Inc, represented by Gwenevere Jenrette and Ina Jenrette, was honored for its development of a cake called Gateau Noir, meaning "black cake." The cake has a long shelf life and is often given as a gift.

Penns Agri-Women, founded in 1977, was represented by Gail McPherson and Joyce Hershey. Marie Baughman, president of the state Society of Farm Women, accepted her award on behalf of the organization.

The individuals receiving certificates presented by Pat Williamson were Joan Pew, Patricia McQuiston, C. Faith Baker and Betty Rode. These women, all employees of the Pa. Department of Agriculture, were recognized for their nontraditional roles.

Joan Pew is the first woman to head the Horse Racing Commission. She is active in state and national horse associations and has addressed every major Horse Racing Commission throughout the nation. Also achieving a first was veterinarian Patricia McQuiston who has been employed by the PDA for five years. She is the only female veterinarian working for the department.

A chemist in the department, C. Faith Baker was honored for her 19 years of employment. She is one of five female chemists working for the PDA. Betty Rode, a home economist employed in commodity

promotions, was named the Outstanding Woman of the Year by the Pa. Grocers Association. Mrs. Rode received a certificate in honor of this award.

Concluding the program was a presentation on "Career Opportunities for Women in Agriculture" by Joan Thomson of the Penn State University. Dr. Thomson said that 40 percent of the student body in Penn State's College of Agriculture is female, with many of the young women majoring in animal bioscience and animal production.

In talking with female agriculture students, Dr. Thomson said that many felt there were "too few female role models for women." This is where women need to step into nontraditional roles.

"The glory is for those women daring to begin the first step in nontraditional agriculture roles," Dr. Thomson said.



"Women's Day in Agriculture" award winners are, front from left, Ina Jenrette, Ina Clarke Inc.; Dawn Klinger, accepting for Patricia McQuiston; Gail McPherson, Penns Agri-Women; and Pat Moyer, accepting for Joan Pew; Back from left, Gwenevere Jenrette, Ina Clarke Inc.; Marie Baughman, Society of Farm Women; Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, award presenter; Betty Rode, commodity promotions; and Joyce Hershey, Penns Agri-Women.

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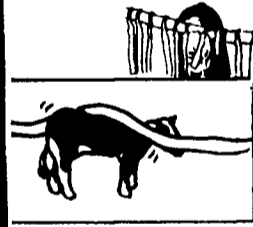
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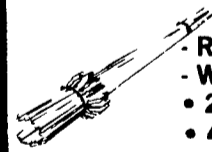
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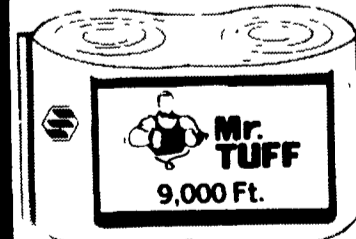
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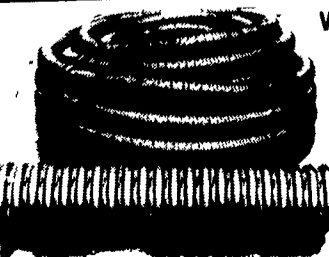
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