

Lancaster County tops state Enviro-lympics

SHAVER'S CREEK — Five members of the Grassland FFA from Eastern Lancaster County School District captured the team title in the first state-wide enviro-lympics competition held on June 27.

Events in the day-long competition sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and coordinated by Warren Werntz, southeast regional director, involved five areas of expertise. Each area was implemented by resource persons from various state agencies.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission coordinated the wildlife segment, which included

identifying mounted specimens of mammals and birds found in the state as well as samples of wildlife foods, tracks and sign, and bird calls. A written examination concluded the wildlife category.

The aquatic biology portion of the event was implemented by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Competition in this segment involved identifying mounted specimens of fish species found in the state's waters. Competitors also had to identify reptiles and amphibians and complete a written exam relating to fish species, the characteristics of the waters and the fish law.

The Bureau of State Parks coordinated the outdoor problem

solving portion of the event. Participants were divided into groups in which several members of the group were blindfolded and required to complete a series of tasks upon hearing verbal instructions from their teammates. This activity was designed to simulate a survival situation in which communications and team work were necessary to complete a group problem solving task.

The Bureau of Forestry was responsible for the forestry segment of the enviro-lympics. Contestants completed a written exam testing their knowledge of the trees in Pennsylvania and had to identify a dozen species of trees marked throughout the wooded

area at the contest site.

Soils judging rounded out the five areas of competition and was implemented by the Soil Conservation Service. Each team member was required to complete a standard scorecard used in the FFA land judging competition at two district sites where soils judging pits had been dug. Students had to estimate top soil depth, determine slope, degree of stoniness, soil texture, internal drainage and other soil characteristics.

They also evaluated each site in terms of soil conservation practices they would implement and hazards or limiting factors relating to specific uses of the site.

Each of the five team members

competed on an individual basis in each category and team results were then tallied for a combined team effort.

Robert Lauffer, who coached the team, said: "We were quite pleased with the showing our students made in the competition."

Members representing the team were seniors: Mike Weaver, son of Mr. Lloyd Weaver, New Holland, and Jodi Carmen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carmen of Narvon. Three juniors made up the remainder of the team: Brian Hurst, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Hurst, Bowmansville; Linda Good, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Good, East Earl; and Kevin Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Martin, East Earl.

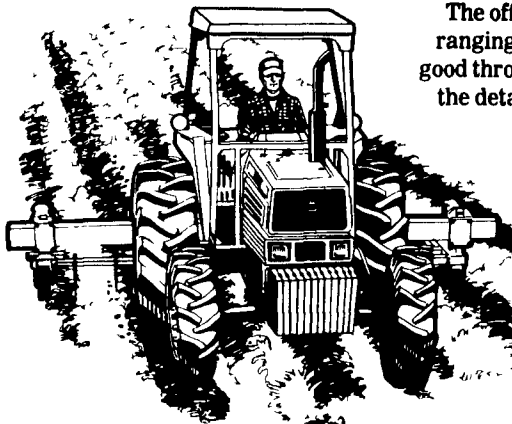
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