

Deppen Retires From Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK — Marion R. Deppen, regional agricultural program leader for the Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Service, retired May 30 after more than 35 years of service to The Pennsylvania State University.

After graduating from Penn State in 1950, Deppen was named assistant county agriculture agent in Clinton and Lycoming counties. An active 4-H member in his native Dauphin County, Deppen enrolled at Penn State with the objective of

becoming a county agent.

From 1953 to 1963 he was county agent in Montgomery County. In 1965 Deppen received a master of science degree from the University of Wisconsin, where his graduate work was funded by a Kellogg Foundation Fellowship for advanced study in agricultural extension administration.

Until 1973 he was assistant director for the 13-county Southeast Region and from 1973 to 1983 was regional assistant

director for the Extension Service's eight-county Capital Region. When that region was expanded to cover 16 counties, Deppen took on his most recent assignment.

In addition to his regional administrative responsibilities, Deppen provided primary leadership in developing the Pennsylvania Management Information System, which is used by the Extension Service in program planning, program management and reporting accomplishments.

In cooperation with Pennsylvania Farmer magazine, Deppen coordinated the Master Farmer program involving Pennsylvania, Delaware,

Maryland, New Jersey and West Virginia. He serves as secretary-treasurer and executive officer for the Master Farmer Association of Pennsylvania, a duty he will retain in retirement.

"The ultimate Extension accomplishment," says Deppen, reflecting on his 35 years, "is its ability to recognize, implement and orchestrate several types of resources to effect change in critical areas. What really makes Extension work is the bonds that develop between clientele and agents."

A concern for rural water quality led Deppen last year to work for a \$362,000 federal grant to educate farmers in the upper Conestoga watershed of Lancaster and Berks counties about the efficient use of crop nutrients. "We know that too much manure and fertilizer are being used in that watershed and that excess reduces the quality of surface water and ground water," says Deppen.

The community-based program is part of the USDA's Rural Clean Water Program and complements local, state and federal efforts to reduce pollution of Chesapeake Bay. This pilot approach in the Conestoga is being watched

nationally.

Active in many professional and community organizations, Deppen has served as president of the Penn State chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society of agriculture. He was president of State College Kiwanis in 1961, and was chairman of Pennsylvania Farm-City Week Committee in 1968 and 1969.

In 1968 Deppen was one of three Extension employees in the United States to receive the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cost Reduction Award, which was presented personally by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Deppen was recognized for the cost reductions effected through the computerizing of the Extension Management Information System.

Deppen and his wife, the former Winabelle Bonawitz of Berrysburg, plan to garden and travel. The couple have four children, all of whom are Penn State graduates. David is an architect in San Francisco; Mary Beth is a homemaker in Lancaster; Sandra is a nutritionist in Frederick, Maryland; and Robert is a physical therapist specializing in sports medicine in Erie.

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THURS. JUNE 26 - 7PM
Complete Herd Dispersal at Kish Valley Dairy Sales, corner of Walnut St. and Front Mountain Rd., adjacent to Belleville Mennonite School, Belleville, PA.

FRI. JUNE 27 - 7PM
Machinery Consignment Auction. At the Jim Adriance Farm. Turn off Rt. 706, just E. of Montrose, PA. Susquehanna Co. Jim Adriance, Auct.

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1986
1:30 p.m.

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