

Berks Group Challenged To Continue Supporting 4-H

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS

LEESPORT — "Let's give a helping hand. Let's support our 4-H clubs," urged George Moyer, president of the Berks County Extension Association board of directors, after he opened the 72nd annual meeting of the Berks County association. Held at the Berks 4-H Community Center, Leesport, on Monday evening, the program featured speakers and leaders outlining the non-traditional 4-H programs and highlighted the entire 4-H effort in the county.

"4-H is an opportunity for parents and other adults to provide this youth development experience. If a community is not willing... then there won't be a 4-H program," stated Dr. Alan Snider, state 4-H program leader, as he echoed the sentiments of Moyer. Snider was the featured speaker for the evening. He has been a 4-H youth specialist for 11 years, having previously served as a county agent in Michigan for 10 years.

Impressed with the 4-H building that the community built in which the meeting was held, Snider added that his future goals are to strengthen the extension 4-H program throughout Pennsylvania. He cited the need to strengthen the curriculum development at the club-community level to include more variety and make a stronger local club. "We need to adapt to the change of the kids," he stated. He also cited the goal of strengthening the partnership between the salaried staff and the volunteer staff of 4-H.

"One of our challenges is to provide program excellence with reduced funding. We must look at what realistically can be done," Snider cautioned.

As he concluded his presentation, the group was again encouraged to continue their support of a program that can provide a wide range of youth with a wide

range of positive experiences working with other youth and adults.

Mae Hostetter, regional 4-H program leader, was on hand to discuss the different aspects of non-traditional 4-H.

"We're presently reaching less than five percent of the youth potential," Hostetter began. She added that we need to deal with broad problems, develop contact with new audiences, and provide a variety of interest for a positive out-of-school experience. "The main thing is that youth are involved in a positive learning experience and having fun while they are doing it," she concluded.

The mistress of ceremonies for the evening was the state winning 4-H speaker, Marianne Yanos, a member of the Berks County Sheep and Lamb Club and in 4-H public speaking for many years. She told the audience what 4-H has done for and means to her. After her presentation, she introduced several other leaders to speak about their projects.

The Hamburg center 4-H program is supervised by Marie Hoffmaster manager of the vocational adjustment service at the center and a nurse for over 13 years. She is in charge of the horticultural program and teaches about growing plants to the center.

Her students are all over 21 years of age and have disabilities ranging from sensory problems to being wheelchair bound. Her students also receive some payment for the work they produce. "Money is a very positive reinforcement," Hoffmaster stated.

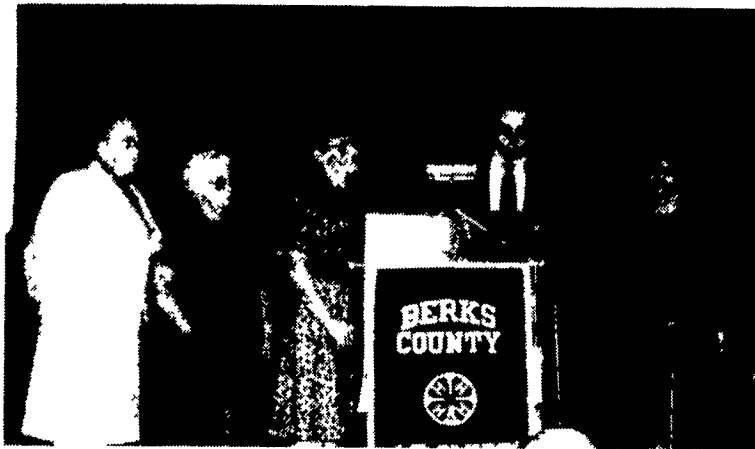
The enlightening and educational benefits of the 4-H embryology program in the classroom was presented by Ellen Gallagher, a teacher for over 17 years who just went through here first year in the program. "It's the most successful unit I ever taught," she began her discussion enthusiastically. After explaining

how the school board, faculty and parents, as well as the students enjoyed the incubating and hatching of chickens from eggs, Gallagher stated she is looking forward to repeating the lessons again.

"I think it's really marvelous when people in the community share their expertise with those of us in the classroom," Gallagher concluded about the embryology program.

Rick Kauffman, Berks County agent and 4-H coordinator, spoke briefly about the 4-H program. He also introduced a new program initiated by Michele Rodgers. Entitled Generation Celebration the new program is an intergenerational 4-H project.

Generation Celebration is designed to help persons of all ages strengthen intergenerational ideas. It promotes relationships between generations, helps youth develop greater sensitivity to the needs of others; helps youth gain self-esteem while working with older adults; helps youth value the experience and perspective of the



George Moyer at microphone presented certificates of service to board members for many years of volunteer service. The recipients included: Helen Readinger, left, with nine years; Audrey Schoenly with five years; Millie Shirey with eight years; and Dorothy Stricker with six years.

older generation helping elders maintain their own self-esteem; and helps to teach a greater understanding of the full-cycle of life.

Leader training for this project will begin in January. Kauffman

stated that they are striving to reach 400 youth and 14 volunteers. "We want to increase communications... not only among families and friends but among generations," Kauffman concluded.

Inter-State locals Set Meetings

SOUTHAMPTON — Inter-State Milk Producers will hold several local meetings this week to update members on the current dairy picture as well as the cooperative's 1986 fiscal year. The cooperative's net savings for the year totaled \$2.5 million. Local meetings will be held at:

- The Woodstown, Salem and Bridgeton Deerfield Locals of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 2 will hold their annual meeting Oct. 14 at 7

p.m. at the Elmer Grange Hall, Pittsgrove Circle, N.J.

- The Southern Lancaster Local of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 3 will hold its fall business meeting Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fulton Grange Hall, Oakryn.

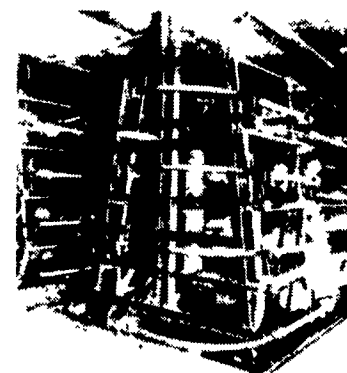
- The Bayview-Cecilton, Elkton Providence and Rising Sun Locals of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 10 will hold their annual dinner meeting Oct. 15

at 7:15 p.m. at the Elkton Methodist Church, Elkton, Md.

- The Kempton Local of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 1 will hold its annual dinner meeting Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Fancy Pantry Restaurant, Kutztown.

- The Burlington County Local of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 2 will hold its annual dinner meeting Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Vincentown Grange Hall, Vincentown, N.J.

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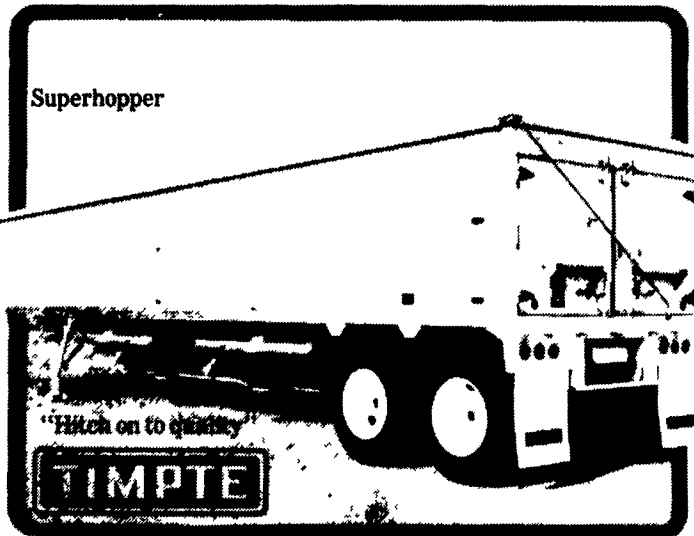
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