

# Keener Honored As Franklin Co. Shepherd Of The Year

**CHAMBERSBURG** — Christiana Keener, 7920 Nyesville Road, Chambersburg, was named "Shepherd of the Year" when the Franklin County 4-H Shepherds held its awards dinner recently. The year-end meeting is held annually at Trinity Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, to recognize the achievements of the junior sheep producers in various categories.

As a six-year member of the Shepherds, Christiana has taken full responsibility for the care of her family's flock of sheep for the past five years doing feeding, giving immunizations, delivering

and caring for newborn lambs as well as ewes and lambs. In addition, she has served as an officer in the club and has actively promoted the lamb and wool industry during the past two years.

A sophomore at Chambersburg Area Senior High School, she was presented with a solid black walnut plaque made by Mark Keener. The plaque will be a traveling trophy given to future "Shepherd of the Year" recipients. The plaque included the names of Keith Bitikofer, winner in 1984, and Delmar Lehman, 1985 winner.

Kelby Mowery, 3355 Lime Kiln Road, Chambersburg, was named

the most improved Shepherd for his excellent work in caring for his market lambs, his improved fitting and showmanship abilities, and his work as an officer with the club.

Rachel Coady, Spring Run, received the award for the best market lamb project book, while Julie Dice, Greencastle, had the best Teen Leadership project book.

Winning the weight-gain competition for market lambs were Lee Golden, Greencastle, first place; Rachel Coady and Delmar Lehman, second place; and Lee Golden and Rachel Coady, third place.

Kelly Boyd and Julie Dice were

given awards for the best fund raisers for the club.

Four members of the Shepherds were recognized for demonstrations given during the year. Gretchen Schoenberg, Shippenburg, participated in County Demonstration Day with her illustrated talk about being a club news reporter. Kelly Boyd, Chambersburg, competed at both county and regional levels demonstrating how to make rope halters. Kelby Mowery's demonstration entitled "How to Raise a Market Lamb," and the lamb and wool promotional talk entitled "Lamb, Wool ...

Superb!" of Christiana Keener, were presented at State 4-H Achievement Days at Penn State. Kelby won a red ribbon, and Christiana won a gold medal.

Enameled Suffolk pins were presented to Franklin County Lamb and Wool Queen Heather Fusting and Princess Kimberly Bixel.

Other recognition was given to Teen Leaders Kim and Ken Bixel, Kelly Boyd, Julie Dice and Christiana Keener; to club officers, president, Julie Dice; vice-president, Christiana Keener; secretary Kelby Mowery; treasurer, Kim Bixel; news reporter, Gretchen Schoenberg; and social chairman, Craig Fusting.

Members recognized for their achievements during the club year included Roundup winners: grand champion, David Keener; reserve champion, Delmar Kelman; light heavyweight champion, Bobby Martin; medium weight champion, Ken Bixel; and light weight champion, Donnie Sheiss. Having the grand champion lamb at the Franklin County Fair was Roger Carbaugh, Mercersburg; Donnie Sheiss had the reserve champion.

David Sheiss, Kim Bixel and Donnie Sheiss took honors in roundup showmanship competition and fitting competition winners were Rachel Coady, Rick Fusting and Ken Bixel.

Alton Good, former club leader and a guest at the dinner, was thanked for his continued help and support of the club.

The Franklin County 4-H Shepherds will reorganize at the County Extension Office in January 1987.

## Poinsettias Add Natural Beauty To Holiday Decorating Schemes

**YORK** — This holiday season — enjoy a poinsettia. Poinsettias often appear early in December and can provide early holiday decorations for your home. By buying poinsettias early in December, finding healthy plants that last longer are easier to locate. Many retail stores, greenhouses, garden stores and flowershops have varying sizes, single or multiple bloom plants at varying prices. Here are some tips on their selection and care.

- When buying a poinsettia, look for foliage that is full, in good condition and of proper color. Many of the new varieties are shorter, stockier and fuller. Leaves should stick out at a 90 degree angle from the stem. If the leaves droop, or leaves are yellowing and falling off, don't

waste your money.

- Examine the blooms in the center of the poinsettia. The small yellow button sized flowers should just be opening at the top. Select plants with numerous small flowers beginning to bloom, indicating growth potential. Plants with large blooms may look prettier, but they have already reached their peak and may start to decline fast.

- When selecting plants for good color, bracts should be bright, but not brilliant. Blooms that appear brilliant will not last long.

- Your best guarantee of quality is to buy a plant from a reliable florist, nurseryman, or garden center.

- Before making your trip home with a poinsettia, make sure it is protected from chilling injury. Put

big sheets of paper or a large plastic bag into an empty box. Then prepare the poinsettia by loosely wrapping the leaves and bracts in strips of soft cloth. Lower the plant into the box and pull the package into a warmed car. Make sure the plant is placed on a seat. Otherwise, it will get too cold.

- On arrival, if you think the flower has become chilled, immerse the pot—soil and all—into lukewarm water. When the bubbles stop, lift the pot and allow it to drain. Repeat the dunking. This will bring soil temperature up to room temperature and may save a chilled plant from dying.

- Avoiding extremes is the most important thing to remember when you get the plant home, keep it in a cool area, with no drafts. The plants should receive morning or early afternoon sunlight.

- The soil should be moist but not soaked. When the soil surface becomes dry, give the plant enough water so that some will pass through to the bottom of the

container. Make sure the plant has sufficient drainage: it should not be sitting in water. If, for example, the pot has foil around it take the foil off and put the pot in the sink to water it. Overwatering has killed many poinsettias in the past.

- Contrary to popular opinion, poinsettias are not programmed to die as soon as the holidays are over. When the blooming is over, gradually stop watering. Just keep enough water in the soil to prevent the roots from drying out.

Poinsettias are still a real bargain today thanks to the research work done by plant scientists and breeders. The lasting affect of the poinsettia is a tremendous characteristic which gives home decorators the chance to use a blooming plant throughout the winter months. With proper selection and care, poinsettias can last until Easter and sometimes into May.

## Flowers Of Christmas

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with poinsettias from our Mexican neighbors. Numerous legends attempt to explain its popularity there. According to one, many years ago a young child in Cuernavaca wept because she had no flowers to place at the manger.

An angel appeared to the child and directed her to pick a weed from the roadside, place it before the altar, and wait. The child obeyed, and soon after the weed was placed at the Nativity scene, it

was transformed into a tall, beautiful plant bearing the whorl of scarlet leaves that became the poinsettia.

The plant was introduced into the United States about 1830 by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. minister to Mexico and an able botanist. After supplying his own greenhouses in Greenville, South Carolina, he distributed plants to his friends and to botanical gardens.

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