

Hess, Welliver Receive Awards At Columbia Ag Banquet

BY HELEN KELCHNER
Columbia County Correspondent
BLOOMSBURG — The 20th Columbia County Agricultural Banquet was held March 10 at Columbia-Montour Vocational Technical School.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of two awards; William Hess of Stillwater received the R.J. Campbell color aerial photo for Cooperator of the Year, and Franklin Welliver, operating under Welliver Brothers and sons of Bloomsburg R.D. 5, received Conservationist of the Year.

Bill Hess has made facilities on his Benton Township farm available for demonstration projects for both Columbia County and Penn State University.

Hess built one of the first "free stall" dairy barns in the county, where educational meetings for farmers and young people interested in agriculture have been conducted. His farm offers a fine dairy housing plan and general operation.

Grain fields on the Hess farm were one of the sites where a successful effort to establish a biological control for Cereal Leaf Beetle was conducted. This ex-

periment is meant to establish a non-chemical control of the pest.

Working with Penn State researchers, Bill provided facilities in his alfalfa fields to perfect the integrated Pest Control of the Potato Leaf Hopper which attacks alfalfa.

Dairy Cattle Identification and Reproductive Management were other research and demonstration projects that he was a part of.

Hess is active on various county agriculture boards and generously contributes his time to school, community and church boards.

Franklin Welliver received the conservation award on behalf of Welliver Brothers and Sons for the extensive conservation program this 2,500-acre operation has employed since 1950. Rough estimates place conservation figures at between 5,000 and 6,000 feet of waterways, more than 17,000 feet of drainage tile, over 20,000 feet of diversions, and more than 343 feet of strips.

Wellivers own and rent multiple farms in the district. They divert poor land on their owned land and on rented land as well. They own necessary equipment to do their own conservation work. One outstanding operation was the

removal of a railroad bed and installation of drainage in that area of their acreage.

In addition to the awards, farmers received information about work done by Penn State in this area. By way of "Extension Update" a few interesting facts on crop cost were given.

Several farmers participated in a corn and alfalfa production cost survey. In 1986, the average cost of producing an acre of corn was \$200.57. Variable costs accounted for \$131 of this while fixed costs, such as land and depreciation, accounted for \$70.

A farmer paid \$134.62 to establish an acre of alfalfa and the annual cost of maintaining and harvesting that acre was \$288. The better growers were getting more than 5½ tons of hay per acre.

The Agricultural Banquet was hosted by members of the Columbia County boards of Cooperative Extension Asso., Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, F.H.A. and the Conservation District.

The banquet was attended by about 300 people. Food preparation students of Columbia-Montour Vo Tech School prepared the dinner.

The Townhill Singers, a group of



William Hess of Stillwater, Columbia County received the Cooperator of the Year award at the Agricultural Banquet March 10. Chuck Gale, Columbia County Extension director, presented the award.

young people under the direction of Julie Leter and Harold Yaple, presented a program of music

geared to the spiritual needs as well as the entertainment pleasure of the agricultural community.



HESS MILLS

CONGRATULATIONS Marvin & Shirley Herr Top 1986 DHIA Jersey Herd in Lancaster County



Skip Brackbill, Farm Consultant from Hess Mills presents a plaque to Marvin and Shirley Herr of Herracres Farm for outstanding herd production. The Herr's work with Skip using Purina Hi-O Top Feed 37 and attained a 1986 DHIA RHA of 14,222 pounds of milk and 666 pounds of fat on their Top Jersey herd. Current production is running at 14,600 pounds of milk and 671 pounds of fat, which is a commendable increase for the first two months of 1987.

Contact Your Farm Consultant For More Information

HESS MILLS

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NC + Hybrids Congratulates Gerald Shoop

Gerald Shoop of Milton has placed first in the 1986-87 Pennsylvania 25 Acre Machine Harvest National Corn Growers Shelled Corn Contest with a certified yield of 196.38 bushels.

Shoop planted NC+ Hybrids #6881 seed to produce a yield that is expected to place in the top 10 non-irrigated fields nationally.

Shoop has been using NC+ Hybrids for several years and purchases his seed through Sam Knouse at Richfield, Pa.



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