

Multi-County Agents

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sion network to fill some of the positions that had become vacant due to a lack of funding on state and federal levels. "The staff was allocated according to where the people are and where the agriculture is," Schadler explained. "And a good portion of that happens to be in the southeastern part of the state."

Approximately 19 multi-county agents are slated to work in Southeast Pennsylvania. Some of the positions have been filled with several agents in place already and others beginning work in April and May. The first agent to fill a position was LeAnna Wheeler, who is based in Chester County. She is a resource-management agent who will be working with families in Chester and Delaware counties to help them make better use of their resources.

Bruce Kreider, a farm management specialist, will begin work on April 1 and be based in Lebanon County. He will cover Berks and Dauphin counties as well. On the same day, John DeFassio also will assume his position as farm management specialist. Based in Lehigh County, he will go to

Northampton and Schuylkill counties.

Nina Redding and Eleanor Garris, home economists, will deliver programs in Adams and Franklin counties. Part of a county pair-up plan, each will specialize in specific areas, developing programs, and sharing information and programs. Redding is based in Adams County, while Garris, formerly with the Adams County extension, has transferred to Franklin County.

The multi-county family resource management/family strengths agent, Rebecca Wolf begins her duties on March 15. She will be based in Lehigh County and travel to Northampton County as well.

On May 1, William Kliener begins working with people in Adams, York, and Franklin counties. His specialty is fruits, and he will be based in Adams County. Patricia Huff, a family living/resource management agent, also starts work on May 1. She will travel throughout Dauphin, York, Lebanon, and Cumberland counties.

Schadler reported that if all goes well, a poultry agent and a farm management agent will start work within the next couple of months.

Both agents will be based in Lancaster. The poultry agent also will go to York, Adams, and Lebanon counties, while the farm management specialist also will serve Chester County.

Several positions are as yet unfilled with a search being conducted for qualified people. Schadler listed two housing and environment specialists; a resource management agent to cover Montgomery, Bucks, and Berks counties; and a water quality agent for York, Cumberland, Adams, Lebanon, Franklin, and Dauphin counties as the main positions yet to be filled.

"We hope that by summer we'll have people for these positions," Schadler said.

Schadler and her associates have high hopes for the new multi-county agents, believing that it is a trend whose time has come. But, they also are realistic enough to know that they'll have their share

of wrinkles to iron out. "It's not going to be without growing pains," she predicted. "We'll have

to build teams. But we'll build a team that will deliver a stronger, meaningful program."

Atlantic District 20 To Meet

SOUTHAMPTON, Pa. — Atlantic Dairy Cooperative District 20 will hold its annual dinner meeting March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Williamsburg Elementary School.

Robert M. Dever, Atlantic's assistant general manager, and Laura E. England, public relations manager, will be the guest speakers. Dever and England will report on cooperative business, dairy issues and milk promotion

activities.

Kenneth Brubaker, District 20 president, will conduct the business meeting. During this time, a 25-year membership award will be presented to Dennis A. and Margaret J. Smith of Martinsburg.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative represents 4,100 dairy farm families in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.



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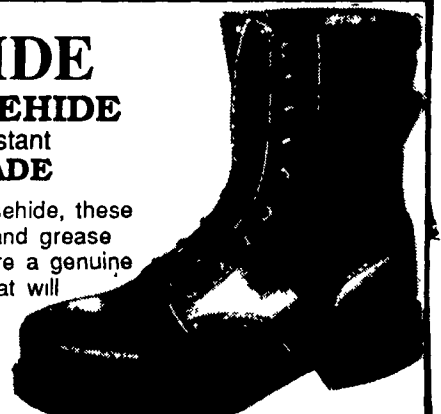
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