

# Chester Extension Programs Cross Audience Lines

BY MARJORIE KEEN

Chester Co. Correspondent  
WEST CHESTER — When the Chester County Extension Service gathers in West Chester for its annual meeting Monday, April 11, it will show the county a beefed-up staff and a clear sense of direction.

"We invite the public to focus on the total extension program," says Trudy Dougherty, County Extension Director and Home Economist. "More of our programs are crossing audience lines. We're still working in agriculture and family living and 4-H, but we decided there are particular areas we need to highlight."

Dougherty cites the water quality testing and financial profitability programs Dairy Agent David Swartz held last year. "The water quality program was a general appeal for people who have their



Dave Swartz

own wells," Dougherty explains. "And you'll see programs that target good record keeping. It may be a dairy meeting but it will focus on record keeping."



Laurie Sicko Sandow with 4-H Seeing Eye Puppy Club.

Livestock Agent Cheryl Fairbairn shares responsibility for crops with Swartz. Fairbairn's expertise is in beef, sheep, swine, poultry, horse and pasture management. A number of the Chester Countians Fairbairn works with are part-time farmers, according to Dougherty.

Fairbairn helped organize the Chester County Sheep and Wool Growers Association. Starting in 1986 she brought together lamb producers and county restaurateurs. Last year Fairbairn and

Dougherty taught home economics teachers to use lamb and wool in their classroom programs. "I think in 1988 we'll see another aspect in marketing," Dougherty says.

While Fairbairn is on maternity leave, longtime 4-H Leader Pat Taws is substituting for her. Taws is chairman of the committee that is building the county's first 4-H center.

Laurie Sicko Sandow serves as 4-H coordinator. In 1987, 1,125 4-H members, ages 8-19, were

enrolled in 1,588 projects. Volunteer leaders in the county numbered 222.

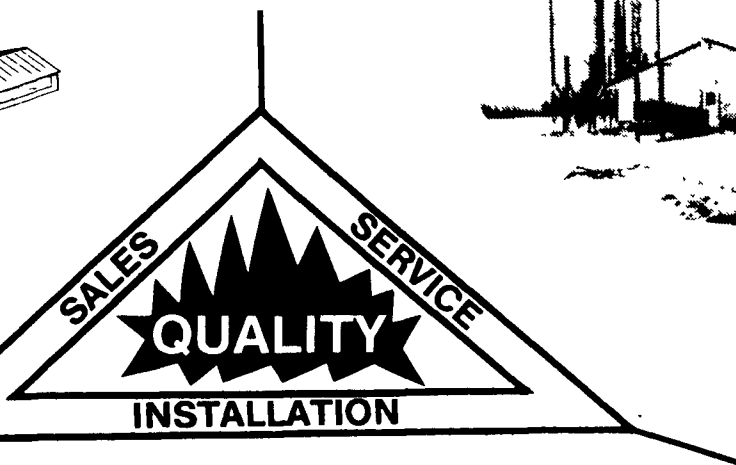
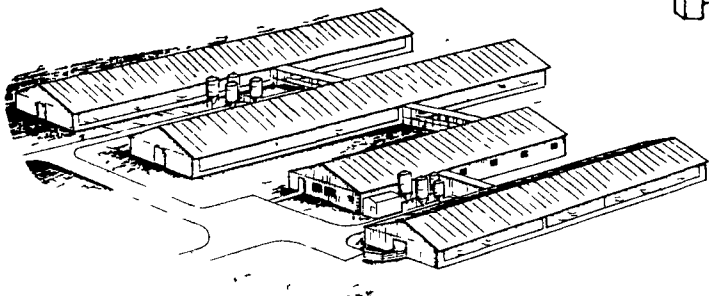
"One of the things that we have spent a lot more time on is working with some of the urban areas," says Dougherty. "Our family living projects have always been popular in all areas. They've done pet care, and the Seeing Eye Puppy program has been a real highlight. We have 4-H clubs in community centers in West Chester, Coatesville and Lincoln University. Instead of a parent

(Turn to Page A31)



Trudy Dougherty (seated). Standing (L) Betty Styer, Sam Steel, Laurie Sicko Sandow.

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