

Penn State Appoints New Extension Agents

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre) — Penn State recently appointed 10 people as extension agents in counties around the state.

Michele L. Bankert has been named assistant extension agent of 4-H and agriculture in Bucks County. Her responsibilities include recruiting, training and supporting 4-H leaders; providing leadership for the development and implementation of community 4-H clubs; coordinating the contributions of local youth agencies and agribusiness organizations to agricultural programs; and conducting agricultural programs.

A native of Red Lion, Bankert is no stranger to 4-H. She was a member of the Winterstown Club in York County for 10 years and worked with Bucks County Extension as a summer 4-H program assistant in 1987.

Bankert received a bachelor of science degree in animal husbandry from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture this past May. While at Delaware Valley she was a member of the livestock judging team which competed in many national events.

Bibiana M. Chestnut has been named associate extension agent of family living and 4-H in Pike County. Her responsibilities include identifying educational needs of people within the county, conducting educational programs in the area of family living, assisting with the Pike County 4-H Program and working with the county commissioners on community improvement programs. She also will share her skills and programs with neighboring counties.

A native of Brookville, Chestnut holds a bachelor's degree in

man environment relations from Penn State. Most recently she served as cooperative extension home economist in Barber County, KS.

Richard H. Dale has been named assistant extension agent for Bedford County. He will be responsible for coordinating the 4-H and the agricultural agronomy programs within the county.

A native of Houtzdale, Dale received a bachelor's degree in general agriculture from Penn State and is working toward a master's degree in agronomy at the University. He also holds a certificate in bio-dynamic agriculture from Emerson College in Sussex, England.

Dale has previously worked as a self-employed farmer, a research assistant at Penn State and head gardener at Saratoga Community Garden in Saratoga, CA. He and his wife Stacy have two daughters, Lucienne and Briana.

Susan J. Goldsworthy has been appointed project assistant for Delaware County. Her primary responsibilities will be working with the Urban Gardening Program in Chester. Created under a three-year grant from the William Penn Foundation, the program includes 4-H Garden Clubs, Community Gardens and other projects to beautify the community through landscape design.

A native of Pittsburgh, Goldsworthy is also a part-time horticultural consultant with Delaware County Cooperative Extension, a position she has held since May 1985. She previously worked as horticultural consultant with Cobb County Cooperative Extension in Roswell, GA; as a child development specialist with St. Francis

General Hospital in Pittsburgh; and as a VISTA volunteer in Auburn, AL.

Goldsworthy holds a bachelor's degree in social psychology from Northwestern University and a master's degree in child development from the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently working toward a bachelor's degree in horticulture and landscape design at Temple University.

She has two children: Emily, nine, and Andrew, seven.

Melanie W. Hemminger has been named extension program assistant of 4-H and agriculture in Armstrong County. Her responsibilities will include organizing and conducting educational programs, especially in the areas of 4-H and animal science. Some of her programs also may be presented in neighboring counties.

Hemminger, who grew up on a

cross-breed beef farm in Somerset, was the 1985 Pennsylvania Cattleman's Queen. Part of her duties as queen included organizing and implementing a beef promotion program for the association.

She holds a bachelor's degree in animal production and is working toward a master's degree in extension education at Penn State. While an undergraduate, she worked as a student shepherd at the University barns. As a program developer for 4-H, she wrote and edited 4-H project books. She also participated in many campus activities, including Block and Bridle Club, Coaly Honor Society, Pre-Vet Club and the 1984 Meats Judging Team.

Mary A. Leager-Hagemester has been named associate extension agent of family strengths and resource management for Dauphin County. Her responsibilities

include organizing and conducting informal educational programs, especially in the areas of individual and family development.

Laeger-Hagemester, a Certified Home Economist, holds a bachelor's degree in home economics from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and a master's of education degree in home economics from Penn State.

A native of Klum, ND, Laeger-Hagemester was interim home economist in Clearfield County from March to September 1987. She also has worked with the Clearfield-Jefferson Mental Health Center in Clearfield. As a home economist consultant, she developed a nutrition manual for clients of the clinic. Currently, she serves as Public Relations Chair for Pennsylvania Home Economics Association (PHEA).

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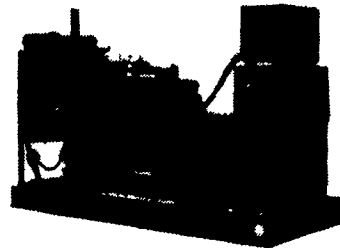


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