

Cotners Receive National Soil, Water Award

HARRISBURG — Donald and Jane Cotner of Danville received the prestigious National Soil and Water Award in conjunction with the 73rd Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff made the presentation to the Cotners on behalf of the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation and the DuPont Company, sponsors of the award.

The Cotner family was one of 10 national finalists in the program. They were selected for their ability to accomplish comprehensive agricultural-resource management and pollution abatement. They have a 1,000-acre crop, beef, and poultry farm in Northumberland County.

"Conservation is a crucial part of today's agriculture," Wolff said. "We have to conserve our resources so future farmers can accomplish more of the production miracles on which our citizens have come to depend. Tonight we pay tribute to some important people who protect soil and water resources as they farm.

"The Cotners symbolize the conservation efforts made by many of the producers in Pennsylvania. We recognize their efforts and we congratulate them for their award."

Don Cotner was a director of his local conservation district for 20 years. He has been at the forefront in implementing a number of new ways to protect national resources in agriculture. He was one of the first in central Pennsylvania to install contour strips. He has installed more than four miles of permanent soil-conservation practices such as terraces, diversions, and grassed waterways. He

was a pioneer in the county in adopting the no-till method of planting corn and has consistently been one of the highest producers. The same techniques are used to establish winter cover crops.

The Cotners also have animal-waste facilities capable of storing more than six months' accumulation of poultry manure from their 200,000 layers so they don't have

to spread manure on their fields in winter. Improved water quality is an important bonus from this conservation practice.

"Soil is our most important natural resource," Cotner said. "I have always felt that as stewards of the land we should strive to not only maintain our soil, but improve it as much as possible each year. Finally, it is more profitable to keep our plant food in

our soil than to have it wash away and pollute our streams and rivers."

The National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, established in June 1982, is a non-profit, non-political organization dedicated to conserving the nation's agricultural resources and promoting a sense of stewardship for the land by all Americans.

PSU Dairy Club Announces 4-H/FFA Contest

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Penn State Dairy Science Club will be holding its annual Spring Judging Contest on Saturday, April 1, 1989 at the Penn State Ag. Arena, at 10:00 a.m. This event is open to all 4-H and FFA members.

The contest consists of five divisions: Sr. 4-H, Jr. 4-H, FFA, Collegiate Amateur, and Collegiate Professional. Each county 4-H team, and FFA chapter will be allowed a maximum of eight contestants. The Jr. 4-H division will be open only to 4-H members under 14 years of age as of January 1, 1989. However, any 4-H member is eligible to judge in the Sr. division.

An entry fee of \$3.00 per person will be charged. This fee cov-

ers the cost of the meal on the day of the contest, and helps cover the cost of mailing the results. Entry forms are due Wednesday, March 22, 1989. Forms should include the division, team members names, coach's name, return address, and phone number. Please mail the information along with the entry fee (checks made payable to: Penn State Dairy Science Club) to:

Yvette Francisco
212 Borland Laboratory
University Park, PA 16802
Call 863-4205 for more information. Registration will also be held the day of the contest at 9:00 a.m. at the Ag. Arena, however, a late entry fee of \$4.00 per person will be charged.

The Dairy Judging Contest is part of the club's annual Dairy Exposition. The exposition is a dairy cattle fitting and showmanship contest between Penn State Students, and will be held on April 22, 1989. At lunchtime that day, special events such as a calf dressing contest, and a milking contest will be held. Following the exposition is our annual awards ban-

quet. The awards for the judging contest will also be presented at the banquet. For ticket information, contact Borland Lab. at the above address or phone number.

The Dairy Science Club members would like to extend a warm welcome to all 4-H and FFA teams across the state to participate in this valuable learning experience.

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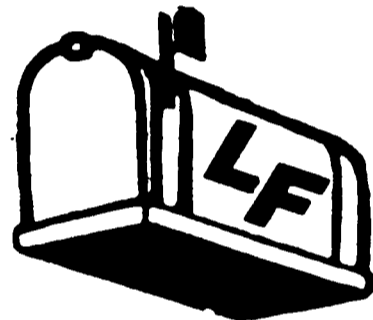
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