

## Penn State Extension Agents Win National Awards

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)— Two Penn State Cooperative Extension agents recently were recognized by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents for excellence in extension programming. Mary Jo Cook of University Park and Carol Schurman of Indiana County recently attended the NACAA Annual Meeting in Somerset, NJ.

Both agents received the Search for Professional Excellence Award. The Search for Professional Excellence program recognizes agents from across the United States who have conducted outstanding programs in the areas of farm income, administrative management, 4-H and youth, rural development, and urban programs.

Mary Jo received her award in the administrative management and public relations category on work she has done with professional staff in their development of program development commit-

Mary Jo has been with the Penn State Cooperative Extension for 14 years and began her career as the 4-H youth agent in Jefferson County in 1975. She is currently



Carol Schurman

the assistant to the regional director, Central Region, located at University Park. She works with extension agents in agriculture, family living, 4-H and community development in the 17 counties in central Pennsylvania.

Carol Schurman was named the northeast winner in 4-H and youth with a program called "Careers: Choices and Challenges." This program involved 29 teens in a series of workshops to explore careers. Teens learned how to complete job applications, how to write a resume, interview techniques, and also were exposed to programs on jobs of the future, self-esteem, and life after high school. The county program also led to a series of state careers workshops that involved more than 300 youth.

An agent for 12 years, Schurman is responsible for coordination of overall county 4-H activities with responsibility in the areas of leadership, club development, communications, horticulture and horse.



Mary Jo Cook

tees to further enhance quality educational programs in cooperative extension. She presented her paper entitled "Strengthening Cooperative Extension Programs Through Program Development Committees."

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