

Adams County Selects Poultry Queen

YORK SPRINGS (Adams Co.) — Crowned Adams County Poultry Queen, Kristi Mummert will assist the county poultry association with promotional activities for the year.

The 17-year-old helps her parents Wayne and Shirley Mummert on their East Berlin farm with its turkey, hog and steer operations.

A senior at Bermudian Springs High School, Kristi is active in band and field hockey. She is a 4-H member and this year represented Adams County in the poultry judging area at State Days.

The pageant was held at York Springs Firehall at 6:30 p.m. on August 18. Gettysburg Chapter of Sweet Adelines provided entertainment.

The county poultry association awarded \$3,400 in college scholarships during 1989. It is a strong sponsor of 4-H programs and active in educational and promotional programs for the poultry industry.



Kristi Mummert, Adams County Poultry Queen is flanked by Valerie Hoy (left), former state Poultry Queen and Anita Meck, PA Poultry Queen.

September Lawn Care

NEWARK, DE. — The best time of year to establish a new lawn or repair an old one is September and October, according to David Tatnall, University of Delaware Extension horticultural agent. "The typically cool nights and warm days of this season," he explains, "are ideal for the growth and development of our finest turf grasses. You should be able to sow lawn seed from early September until about October 15."

Two other important chores essential to a thorough fall lawn renovation are aerating and fertilizing.

Hard compacted soil impedes water and fertilizer penetration and discourages deep root growth. Power aerators, which can be rented locally, help "open up" or aerate the soil. "Make sure you use a machine that actually removes tiny plugs of soil," Tatnall says, "not a spiker which can cause even greater soil compaction."

Aerating also helps to reduce thatch. Thatch is a dark, peat-like layer of dead grass that forms at the soil surface. It slows penetration of water, fertilizer and pesticides into the soil, which discourages deep root growth, Tatnall says. Thatch may also harbor insects and disease. Thatch is more serious when the soil is compacted and acid, or when the lawn is over-watered and over-fertilized. Excessive thatch of a half-inch or more can be reduced by using a core aerator to remove plugs of soil and speed decomposition.

Fall is the best time to fertilize lawns. During this season, grass naturally puts extra energy into root growth and tiller production that combine to produce a healthy stand. Apply one or two (but no more than two) pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn (ten to twenty pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer). It is best to use a fertilizer that contains both quick and slow release nitrogen.

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