

Lancaster Farming

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Bedford County Agriculture Students Have Field Day

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent

BAKERS SUMMIT (Bedford County) — More than 130 students participated in the annual Junior Holstein Field Bedford County Field Day held this year at the Kenneth Mowry Farm, Martinsburg RD 2.

Taking top honors in the junior division Holstein judging competition were Galen McDonald, a 9th grader from Chestnut Ridge and Richard Bowman, a 9th grader at Northern Bedford County High School.

Placing first in the senior division was Susie Mowry, a senior at Northern Bedford, and Alisha McDonald, Chestnut Ridge, placed second.

The 1200-acre Mowry farm has a herd of more than 300 Holsteins.

Students were judged in their judging competition by Dale Oliver from Penn State.

Dick Dale of the Bedford County Extension Office spoke on crops and management.

Dr. Dave Welsh, Somerset, gave a talk on tracking and breeding milk cows. His presentation was highlighted with a bovine uterus.

Steve Mowry, of the Mowry Farm, demonstrated this farm family's manure pit.

Refreshments for the students were provided by the Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op and Purina Mills.

Ag students participated from Bedford, Northern Bedford, Chestnut Ridge, and Central high schools.

(See pictures A38)



Winners who judged the Mowry Holstein herd were given desk pen sets. Rear, left to right: Susie Mowry and Alisha McDonald. Front, left to right: Galen McDonald and Richard Bowman, junior winners.



"You can't believe how well waterways, terraces, and diversions work until you see it," Robert Eberle said.

He and his wife Betty received the 1990 Snyder County "Conservation Farmer of the Year" award for the conservation practices installed on their 500-acre Port Trevorton farm.

Damaged Fields Mend: Farmer Cited For Conservation Methods

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

PORT TREVORTON (Snyder Co.) — Thunder rumbled across the rolling farmland of Robert and Betty Eberle. Torrential rains slashed the fields into gullies that snaked down the freshly plowed hillsides.

In dismay, Robert Eberle watched as the rushing water tore off fertile top soil and dumped it on a muddy heap at the bottom of the towering hillsides.

"We've got to do something," he told his wife Betty. "These storms are destroying our fields."

That was three years ago.

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State Grangers Meet, Discuss Rural Issues

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.,
Lancaster Farming Staff

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.)

— Rural health care, swampbusting provisions and possible direction of the 1990 Farm Bill were the top items of concern during Monday night's annual meeting of the the Pennsylvania State Grange held at the Holiday Inn, here.

An estimated 270 Grange mem-

bers also celebrated National and state Grange week and talked with state legislators about possible cures to perceived problems.

An afternoon series of eight workshops covered topics from floral art to an update on work on the 1990 Farm Bill and rural health care.

Emily Gruss, with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, talked about

some of the problems with declining rural health care and advances made toward securing a dependable service.

According to Gruss, the Center was created by the state General Assembly because a number of issues concerning rural life were not being addressed.

"Although some issues were being taken care of pretty well (farm issues and the agricultural issues), there are a lot of issues related to rural areas that weren't being addressed; things like rural health care, but also rural economic development in general, and transportation issues," Gruss said. "We were created to fill that void," she said. "Our job is to identify issues of concern in rural Pennsylvania, and then develop state policy recommendations to address those."

Gruss said that rural health care today is simple and can be described as family doctor centered. As a native of Portage, a rural



Leroy Watson, National Grange lobbyist talks about possible direction with a 1990 Farm Bill.

area, she said she has her own experience to call on, when it comes to rural health issues.

She said her mother had recently broken a rib and had to drive one half-hour to Johnstown for care. More serious injuries require trips to more distant and better facilities.

In comparison to more specialized medical facilities in high-population areas, such as Philadelphia, Gruss said the rural demand is more for "a doctor and a hospital."

However, she said that recent changes in rural demographics and related health care needs has created a higher demand for physicians, while at the same time incentives to be a rural physician have been cut drastically.

"There's more of a need for them (rural doctors). The rural population is increasingly an elderly population," she said. "I know in my hometown the only new business that was started

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PSU College Of Ag Provides Powerful Engineering Program

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — One of the four-year degree programs in the College of Agriculture here at Penn State provides a really powerful course for agriculture engineering students. This is true because the course combines basic engineering technology, the agriculture sciences and business management.

Dr. Dennis Buffington, professor and department head, explained the programs and conducted a tour of his facilities last week for visitors to the University as part of the regular meeting of the Ag Advisory Council.

"Ag engineering is the application of engineering to agriculture," Buffington said. "By agriculture we mean the larger definition that includes food processing and environmental concerns. But farming is a large part of it." At the time of the visit, students

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