

# Best Of Lancaster County Agriculture Showcased

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)  
— A smorgasboard of Lancaster County's bounty greeted guests at the annual Cooperative Extension meeting on February 21.

"This is grazing at its best," said a guest who had a plate heaped high with food provided by local commodity groups.

The Cooperative Extension combined the social event, attended by about 200, with business reports of the organization's activities and election of directors.

In response to a shaky economy, many question whether or not Lancaster County farmers will

survive?

"Yes," Jay Irwin, county extension director, predicted. "The extension helps farmers make smarter and more accurate decisions to make a profit — the best way I know to preserve farms."

Irwin plans to retire May 1. While countians grieve Irwin's departure, Dr. Paul Wangsness, Capital region extension director, reminded the association that quality and quantity personnel remain at the Lancaster Extension.

Although state funding for the extension has been restricted, Dr. Wangsness praised county commissioners for allowing funding for a new extension position that



Guests at the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension meeting compared the many varieties of apples grown in Lancaster County.



From all the extension agents with less than 10 years service, Lancaster County Extension Livestock Agent Chet Hughes was chosen for the top Pennsylvania Extension Achievement Award. Hughes impressed the judges with his development of the Sheep and Wool Growers Association, now in its fifth year.

will focus on environmental issues.

Livestock Extension Agent Chet Hughes received the Pennsylvania achievement award. The award is given to only one extension agent in the state. Hughes earned the award for establishing the Lancaster County Sheep and Wool Growers Association.

Hughes, who has been with the

extension for about 10 years, said that he organized the Sheep and Wool Growers Association five years ago.

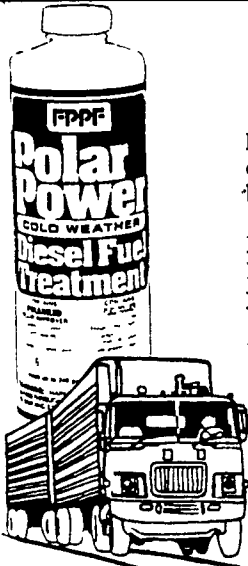
"It's primarily an educational association rather than promotional," he said.

Eighty members now participate in the educational meetings, which also holds sheep shearing schools.

For his efforts, Hughes was honored at the Extension's National Association meeting held at Seattle in October.

In other business, five directors for the extension association were elected: Dale R. Hershey, northwest section; John Groff, northeast section; Kenneth Rohrer, southwest section; Donald Herr, south-

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