

## Doyle Thomas Retires After 35 Years Of Service

MONTROSE (Susquehanna Co.) — Doyle Thomas, county extension director for Penn State Cooperative Extension of Susquehanna County, will be retiring as of June 30.

In order to honor Doyle for his 33 years of service to Susquehanna County, there will be a retirement reception on Sunday, July 7, at the VFW Hall in Montrose from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. There will be presentations made to Doyle starting at 3 p.m. A light buffet lunch is included in the \$3 registration fee.

Doyle came to Susquehanna County in September of 1958 as the agronomy and 4-H agent. He became county extension director in 1976.

After graduation from Penn State University in 1951 with a B.S. in agronomy, he served as an extension agent in Westmoreland County for two years. Between September of 1953 and August of 1958, he worked on his family's farm in Columbia County, primarily growing crops and vegetables.

In September of 1958, Doyle relocated to Susquehanna County, where he was assigned as the agronomy/4-H agent and has worked in both of these areas throughout his extension career. He obtained a M.S. in agronomy from Penn State University in 1969.

Doyle has been very active in ag land preservation since 1981. Because of his efforts, 25 of 27 Susquehanna County townships have worked on setting up ag security areas, of which 23 are now secured. He was also instrumental in starting the Susquehanna Coun-

ty Ag Easement Board, which purchases development rights from farmers in order to help preserve Susquehanna County farmland.

Between 1961-1966, he worked extensively with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) demonstration program. Several farms were on this program to yield much-needed fertilizer, and fertility and farm management information for them as well as for the university. These farms were also the site for several county demonstrations and field days.

Because of the importance of good agronomy practices, much work has been done in this area through demonstrations, variety trials, field days, and agronomy meetings. Many meetings have been conducted for farmers to receive pesticide certification credits along with ideas on weed control, pesticide safety, and crop improvement.

For many years, Doyle has conducted income tax and farm record management educational programs/workshops. Throughout the years, he has been a source of advice for many farmers in the area of farm income taxes.

Doyle has been instrumental in starting the Susquehanna County Forest Landowners Association and also working with general timber stand improvement. This has been very important to the county, since 62 percent of the land is forest. Many educational programs have been held to educate landowners in the proper use of this natural resource.

He has worked many years in

the area of farm safety. This has been accomplished through field days/meetings and the youth tractor safety certification program.

With the sheep and wool growers, Doyle has conducted numerous educational programs and has worked with the county wool pool. He has also developed a videotape on general year-round sheep flock management.

Because of Doyle's efforts, several areas have set up lake associations that promote proper maintenance of lakes/ponds. He has also put together a wealth of information on aquatic weed control and water quality in general. He has helped numerous people determine their water quality problems.

Other areas in which he has helped the county include starting a Susquehanna County farmers market, starting a county beekeeper's association, working with farmers and families with estate planning, and starting up a county Master Gardener program. He has conducted numerous programs in small fruits, vegetables, gardening, poultry, livestock, dairy, stray voltage, and many others. He has also conducted numerous dairy tours and farm city feasts.

In 4-H, Doyle has been active in most areas and activities. When he first started with extension, he was responsible for the program and for scoring 4-H members' projects. During the past several years, he has worked primarily with livestock, agronomy, and vegetable projects, and he started the 4-H dog and 4-H capon projects. Doyle also coordinated the 4-H program to run in conjunction

with the Harford Fair since the late 1950s, and introduced the 4-H Livestock Sale.

Radio programs are a big part of day-to-day extension work. Since Doyle started his career, he has averaged more than two programs per week (more than 3,500 radio programs to date). He has also made numerous appearances on TV programs relating to gardening, landscaping, and farm and home tips.

Doyle has been active in extension associations as well, including the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents (PACAA), the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA), and Epsilon Sigma

Phi. With PACAA, he has served and chaired on numerous committees throughout the years. Some of these include the Awards and Recognition Committee, Nominating Committee, Budget Committee, and Retirees Committee. Doyle was also awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 1988 from PACAA.

A book of letters/comments is being assembled for Doyle and contributions toward a gift are being collected at the Susquehanna County Extension Office.

For reservations and contributions, contact Nick Place, Susquehanna County Cooperative Extension, County Office Building, Montrose, PA 18801, (717) 278-1158.

### Crawford Sets Open House

MEADVILLE (Crawford Co.) — An "open house" welcoming the public to the new office will be held by Crawford County Cooperative Extension on Monday, July 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

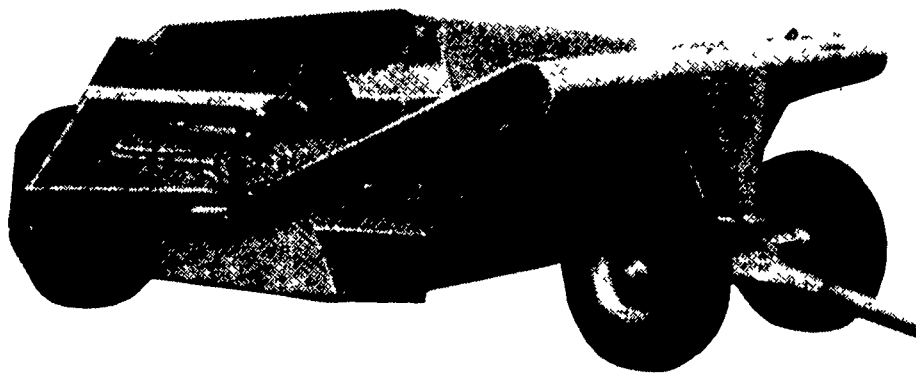
An official ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. The new facility is located in the front section of the Crawford County Industrial Park, formerly the Avtex plant, on Dunham Road, Meadville.

Individuals taking part in the official opening of this facility will be Dr. Diane Brown, west region director of Penn State Cooperative Extension; David Glenn, chair of Crawford County board of commissioners; Dennis Rynd, president of Crawford County Extension executive com-

mittee; Jack Rynd, chair of building committee; and Ruth Prest, interim county extension director.

Exhibits will feature current and upcoming educational programs related to dairy rations, nitrogen testing for crops, soil testing and interpreting test results, a new Master Gardener volunteer program to be initiated next fall, the 4-H Ambassador program, the 4-H Interstate Exchange program, water quality fact sheets and a flow model, Family Community Leadership team projects, child care and parenting newsletters, family financial management resources, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), and "Pen Pages" computer network resources available to residents statewide from Penn State University.

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