

Grange Supports Better Living

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania State Grange recently donated \$1,000 toward the Pennsylvania Foundation for Better Living, an initiative of the Pennsylvania State Council of

Farm Organizations. Formerly the fund for Agri-literacy, the Foundation hopes to "increase the understanding and awareness of the interdependence

of people, food, fiber and the environment," said Beth Moore, executive director of the foundation.

"With about 1 percent of the population actually involved in agricultural production, farming is becoming more and more distant to the general public," said William H. Ringler, master of the Pennsylvania State Grange. "We must work agriculture into our schools' curriculum so we can teach the general public its importance and the impact the farming industry has on the general economy."

The money will be used for educational material, training of teachers and promoting agricultural awareness.

"We plan to provide hands-on projects that can be used in schools and by others to increase their awareness of agriculture, from the production of food and fiber to the importance of maintaining the environment," Moore said.



Pennsylvania State Grange Master William H. Ringler, right, hands Don Unangst, a Foundation member, a check for \$1,000 to be donated to the Pennsylvania Foundation for Better Living. This foundation was established to promote the awareness of agriculture in the classroom.

Learn To Raise Dairy Goats

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The demand for goats and goat producers is greater than it has been in decades. People are moving back to rural areas and "homesteading" and they now have a stronger desire for home-produced food versus items bought in the store.

In some heavily populated countries, one or two goats are a staple for the family's food production. Goats don't require an expensive stable, a large farming area, or large amounts of hay, silage, or grain usually needed to maintain dairy cows.

"Dairy Goats," a non-credit, nine-lesson course offered through Penn State's Department of Independent Learning, discusses the finer points of raising dairy goats and their milk production.

Dr. Donald L. Ace, a profession emeritus and extension specialist in dairy science, discusses how to select the best goat for your family's needs. When buying a goat specifically for milk, you should observe the animal for certain distinctive characteristics:

- The animal should be sleek and alert, not fat or sluggish.
- The barrel or body cavity should be long and deep with the ribs well sprung and open.
- The legs must be straight and strong with good bones.

• The udder must show evidence of having the capacity to produce milk, since all the milk that you withdraw is present in the udder.

"Dairy Goats" also gives some guidelines for the feeding of your dairy goats. Dr. Ace said that although goats eat most clean foods, they should not be purchased with the intention of feeding them leftovers and weeds. Goats need a well-balanced diet in order to produce milk effectively. They may eat tender shoots of weeds and coarse grasses, and fruit and vegetable scraps from the table, but pastures, top-quality hay, and silage should provide their basic diet. When fed properly, your goats will produce milk that can be used for such things as:

- Fluid milk for table use.
- Manufacturing processes that condense or evaporate milk for making cheese.
- Ice cream.
- Butter.
- Goat's milk fudge.

If you are interested in learning how to raise dairy goats, how to select the best goat for your family's needs, and how to produce goat's milk products, please send \$19 to Dairy Goats, Agriculture Course #5122, 128 Ag-Mitchell Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Make checks payable to Pennsylvania State University.

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