

Extension, 4-H Systems Receive Grant

The Cooperative Extension System and National 4-H Council have received a \$3.5 million grant from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund to assist in planning, implementing, and evaluating programs during a four-year period for Extension's National Youth At Risk Initiative.

The Youth At Risk Initiative targets the social and economic implications of not addressing the urgent needs of the next generation of Americans. One of Extension's goals is to expand its outreach to more youth, particularly to those who are most vulnerable because of poverty, lack of parental and community support, and negative peer pressure.

"This grant will provide opportunities for staff to maintain and enhance technical knowledge and process skills," said Myron Johnsrud, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

Extension Service, the federal partner in the Cooperative Extension System. "The grant will help assure a high level of staff competence enabling Extension to enhance its youth education programs."

During the next four years, extension will use the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund grant to improve and create training curricula, expand an existing data base on youth development, conduct national and regional training activities, and pilot various model training programs.

The grant will be used along with more than \$25 million of new and reallocated federal, state, local, and private funds to build and strengthen capacity in areas of nationwide emphasis.

"Helping people help themselves has always been part of our philanthropic heritage," said George Grune, chairman of the

DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. "This grant will enable extension to recruit, train, and develop the best people, who will in turn be in a stronger position to serve the diverse needs of today's

young people."

The DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund is committed to increasing educational and career opportunities for all youth. Through annual grants of approxi-

mately \$30 million, the fund invests nationwide in people and programs dedicated to improving the effectiveness of schools and other organizations that serve youth.

York Ag Banquet To Honor Farm Family

YORK (York Co.) — York County's Fifth Annual Agriculture Recognition Banquet will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 31 at the Wisheaven Hall on East Prospect Street (Route 124).

At this event, the York Area Chamber of Commerce will honor an outstanding farm family, an individual who has shown exemplary service to agriculture, Ag Exchange Day participants, Century and Bicentennial farm owners, and Farm Visitation Day

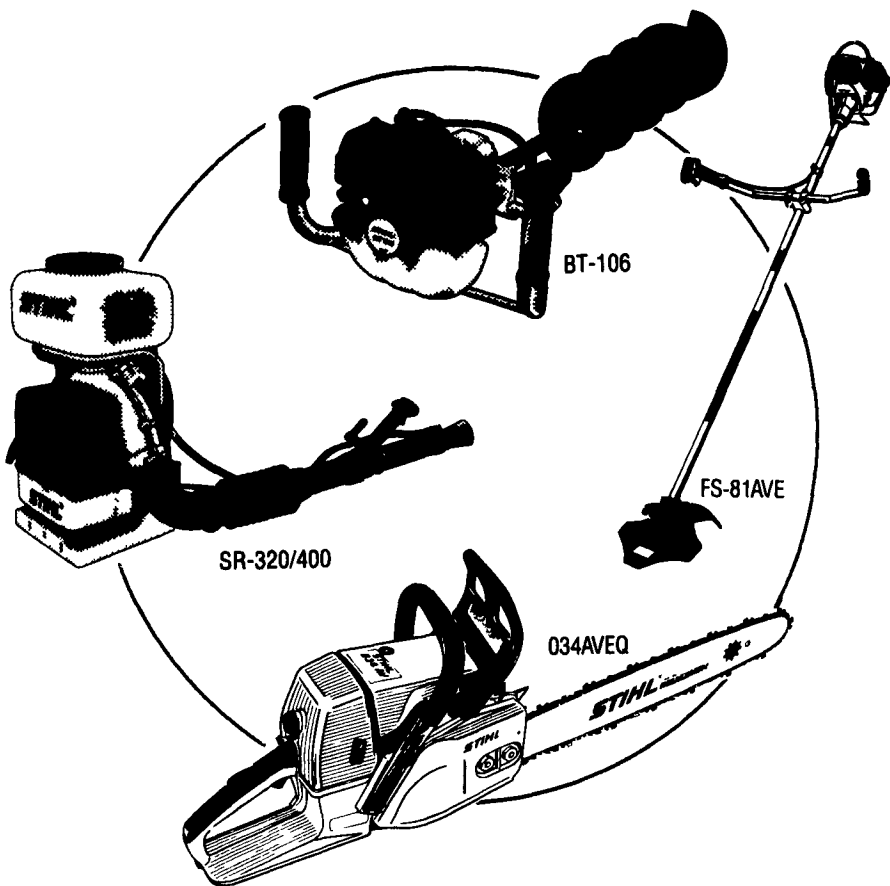
participants.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Congressman Pat Roberts of Dodge City, Kan. Roberts currently serves on the House Agriculture and the House Administration committees. He is vice chairman of the Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture subcommittee. He also serves on the Wheat, Feed Grains, and Soybeans subcommittee. His work on these major com-

mittees has provided a balance between agricultural needs and environmental concerns. Roberts has a strong voice for agriculture and is a leader in the fight to preserve rural communities.

Reservation costs are \$15 per person or \$120 per table of eight. For more information or to make reservations, contact Grace Julius at the York Area Chamber of Commerce, (717) 848-4000, as soon as possible.

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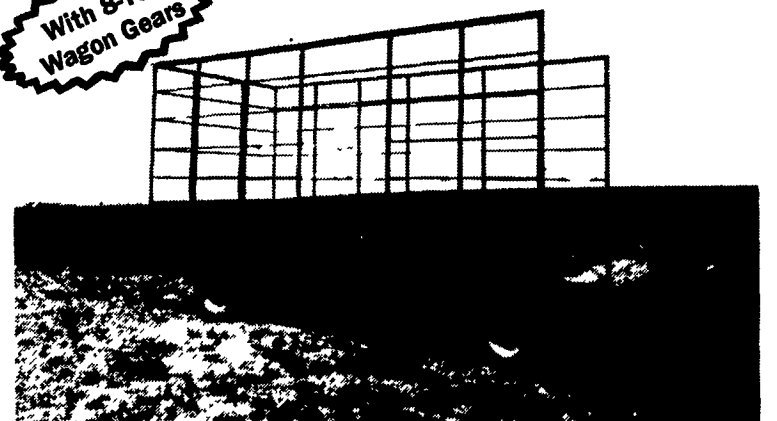
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