

Ag Advocates Promote Agriculture

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — While other industries have cut back in response to the recession, agriculture has continued to grow. In the upcoming academic year, a group of Penn State students will work to inform the public about opportunities in the nation's number-one industry.

Sixteen undergraduates in the College of Agricultural Sciences have been chosen as ag advocates. They will support the college's efforts to enhance the image of agriculture and recruit highly qualified students. They also will help alumni and friends stay in touch with college programs and developments.

"More agricultural scientists are needed to improve food and fiber production in the United States," said Dr. Marianne Hous-

er, instructor in agricultural education and adviser for the program.

"Students in the College of Agricultural Sciences receive training in diverse areas such as horticulture, veterinary science, and environmental resource management," she said. "Graduates have excellent career opportunities."

The 1992-93 ag advocates come from both urban and rural areas of Pennsylvania and represent several academic departments in the College of Agricultural Sciences. They are:

- Tammy Balthaser of Bernville, a senior majoring in agricultural business management

- Catherine Dawson of Allentown, a sophomore majoring in environmental resource

management

- Aimee Eoepochino of Hanover, a sophomore majoring in food science

- Michael Gainer of Erie, a freshman majoring in agricultural science

- Antoinette Gomez of Oxford, a sophomore majoring in poultry science

- Lynette Goodling of Selinsgrove, a junior majoring in dairy and animal science

- Barbra Hart of Aliquippa, a sophomore majoring in animal bioscience

- Rick Hissong of Mercersburg, a junior majoring in agricultural systems management and technology

- Jennifer Karlip of Lancaster, a junior majoring in forest products marketing

- Daniel Kirk of Collingdale, a senior majoring in plant science

- David Lentz of Lebanon, a junior majoring in dairy production

- Jeffrey Ozarski of Downingtown, a junior majoring in environmental resource management

- Terri Packard of Troy, a junior majoring in dairy and animal science

- Cherice Parker of Philadelphia, a junior majoring in agricultural economics and rural

sociology

- Holly Shoener of Pine Grove, a junior majoring in agricultural and biological engineering

- Rebecca Sonnen of Richland, a junior majoring in agricultural science.

Ag advocates are selected on the basis of high academic achievement, interviews, and faculty recommendations. Dena Lamartine F. Hood initiated the program in the fall of 1988.

Auction To Offer Grading Tips

ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — Vegetable and fruit growers supplying produce auctions can pick up grading tips at a miniworkshop on the sales floor of the Kutztown Produce Auction on Thursday, July 16, from 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Presenter will be Thomas V. Yawman, federal supervisor for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service serving Pennsylvania.

Proper grading and sizing helps the farmer earn the highest price and best reputation among wholesale buyers. That's no secret. The mystery here is what exactly to pack, what constitutes a first, second, and an off-grade among common vegetables and fruits.

For the workshop, Yawman will sort several packs of local vegetables and comment on the grading. He will provide guidelines on grading four top produce items — tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, and cucumbers — plus answer questions from growers.

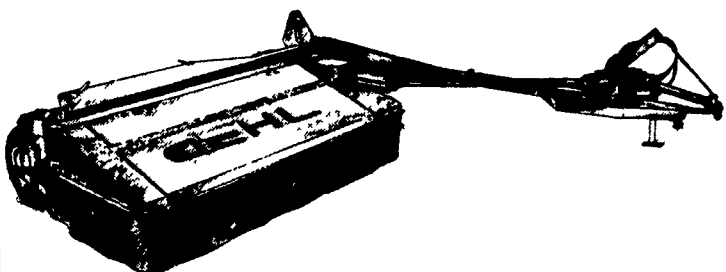
In his position, Yawman oversees the staff who inspect fruits and vegetables for grade verification throughout Pennsylvania. He also conducts intensive training for inspectors and performs inspections as requested by buyers. Yawman is with USDA and is based in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture building in Harrisburg.

The miniworkshop is free and will be followed by the regular sale of fresh produce at 9:30 a.m. The Kutztown Produce Auction is on Oakhaven Road, just west of Kutztown and south of Rt. 222.

Call Jeff Patton, extension marketing agent, at the Lehigh County Cooperative Extension office at (215) 391-9840 for more information and directions.

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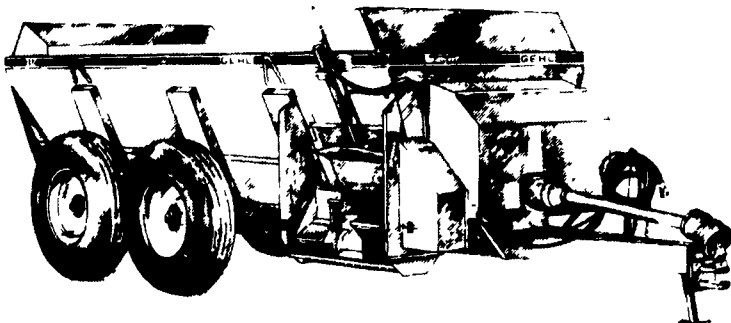
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