

Tioga County Conservationists Receive Awards

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WHITNEYVILLE (Tioga Co.)
— On the eve of the Blizzard of 1993, friends, family and dignitaries gathered at the Tioga County Fairgrounds to pay tribute to outstanding county conservationists. Sponsored by agricultural agencies, awards were presented to the

top farmer, forester, teacher, and eight 4-H members whose concerns for the environment are reflected in their conservation practices.

Accepting the award for 1992 Conservation Farm of the Year, Burdette Brewer said, "Conservation is a must in farming today. To save soil, get on the fields at plant-



Carroll Doan receives an award for 15 years of Community Committee Service with the ASCS.



J. Dawn Bowers of Mansfield, the nutrition education adviser with the extension office in Tioga County, received the Extension Cooperator Award presented by Linda Yungwirth.



Bureau of Forestry employee Mike Palko said, "Tioga County celebrates another first" as he gives Annie Bohlin the Forest Stewardship Award. According to Palko, "Bohlin is the first landowner to be designated as such."



Outstanding 4-H'ers who received awards were, left to right, Trisha McIlwain, Ellen Norman, Elizabeth Norman, Teresa McIlwain, and Chris Niemczyk. 4-H Program Assistant Lee Hoar introduced the winners.

ing and harvest time, and to make farming profitable, a farmer has to use good conservation. I am convinced conservation works. I cannot afford not to practice (it)."

Brewer and his wife Sara Mae began farming on their Jackson Township farm in 1949. In 1971, he signed up a cooperator with the Tioga County Conservation District. Since that time, Brewer has practiced good soil and water conservation on the entire farm by installing over 14,000 feet of sub-surface drainage, 2,800 feet of diversion ditches, 2,000 feet of water ways and use a conservation cropping system, contour farming, and strip farming.

Together with their son Randy, the Brewers milk an 80 cow herd and work 300 acres raising crops and hay. Burdette is an active member of the Eastern Milk Producers Co-op and is a delegate for the Tioga Local. He enjoys riding motorcycle and hunting rattle snakes. The Brewers are also members of the Mansfield Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Annie Bohlin of Charleston Township was named 1992 Forest Cooperator of the Year. Of her 150-acre farm, approximately 60 acres are devoted to crops and pasture, 44 acres are woodlands, and another 46 acres are available for tree planting.

Bohlin has been actively applying a conservation plan on the crop fields by installing diversion ditches, practicing strip farming and crop rotation, developing springs, and improving wildlife habitats.

Using woodlot and wetlands management plans, Bohlin has planted red and white pines and sugar maples, with many of the maples protected by tree shelters. She has been preparing her woodlot for future timber harvest by doing timber stand improvement, cull tree removal, and forest road layout. Because of her efforts, the Bureau of Forestry has chosen her as the first landowner to receive the Forest Stewardship Award in Tioga County.

The 1992 Outstanding Conservation Teacher Donna Puskar makes conservation and the environment a part of the curriculum in all the classes she teaches. An

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ASCS employee Ralph Brugger hands Ted Besanceny an award for 15 years of continuous service to the Tioga County Conservation District.



Acknowledged for their part in helping the Tioga County ASCS offices receive an award for public relations work in promoting the ASCS program are Clara Kilburn, Sherri Elder, Jim Welch, and Ken Palmer. District Director, Eileen Dewey, far right, presented the award to the group.