

Extension Honors Professional

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — James W. Simms of Oakland is this year's recipient of the Director's Award for Extension Excellence.

Simms has 20 years of experience as a 4-H and agricultural science agent, successively, in Garrett County.

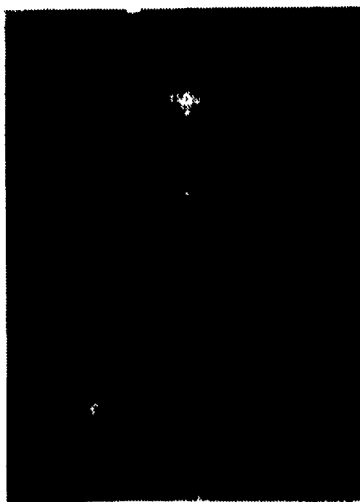
He was honored at a luncheon in Columbia during the recent annual conference of the Cooperative Extension Service, Maryland Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, a part of the University of Maryland System. The honor is bestowed each year on an outstanding county agent in Maryland by Dr. Craig S. Oliver, the state extension director.

In 1987, Simms helped to organize the Mountain Fresh Pro-

ducers Association, which benefits growers in Garrett County, Md., as well as in Tucker and Preston counties, W. Va.

He also has established educational programs in farm financial management, dairy sciences, and field crops. Earlier in his extension career as a 4-H agent, Simms was involved with the Western Maryland 4-H Camp near Bittinger. He has served since 1982 as the camp's general manager.

Simms interrupted his extension career for nine years, from 1973 to 1982, to operate a retail home and garden center with his family in Oakland. He is a former president of the Maryland Association of Extension 4-H Agents and is an active member of the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents.



James W. Simms, of Oakland, left, is congratulated by Bruce W. Hotchkiss of Easton following the awards luncheon during the annual extension conference in Columbia. Simms received the Director's Award for Extension Excellence. In addition to a plaque, Simms received a \$1,000 check from Southern States Cooperative, a watch from the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, and a University of Maryland chair from The Delmarva Farmer newspaper.

Ricky Bauer of Dayton, Howard County, shows off his producer award for outstanding service to the state's swine industry. Presentation was made during annual banquet of the Maryland Pork Producers Association at Queenstown. Austin C.J. Wiles of Middletown, Frederick County, received the James R. Ferguson Memorial Award for feeder pig production. John J. Hafer, Jr., of Frostburg, Garrett County, was named Maryland's Pork All-American for 1993. This award includes an all-expense-paid trip to the World Pork Expo scheduled June 11-13 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Goetz Joins Progeny Test Program

DEFOREST, Wis. — Cynthia K. Goetz of Mercersburg has elected to participate in the American Breeders Service (ABS) progeny test (PT) program.

In this program, the Sugardrop Farm will be using semen from young dairy bulls that are genetically tested by ABS. The ABS PT program is unique because it allows test herds to select which young bulls they would like to sample, while also allowing them the option to have ABS send them semen from a non-specific young sire. The goal in either case is to have each progeny tested young sire receive a highly reliable sire summary at the conclusion of the testing period. Information gathered from the Goetz herd will be used to develop global genetic improvement.

ABS selects PT herds based on superior management practices, accurate record-keeping programs, animal identification program, and a strong desire to use the best genetics available to improve their herd. The management of the PT herd affects the quality of the data ABS receives. ABS relies on PT herds for accurate animal identification and official DHIA records.

After receiving this accurate data, the Sugardrop Farm will receive benefit payments from ABS for each PT calf born, and again for each PT-sired daughter included on the sire's second USDA summary.

Producers interested in more information on the ABS PT program should contact their local ABS representative.



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