

# Tech Students See Horticulture Designs Become Reality

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
FAIRLESS HILLS (Bucks Co.)  
— In computer publishing lingo, it's called WYSIWYG (pronounced "wisseewig") — What You See Is What You Get.

And WYSIWYG is used full-force by members of the special horticulture program at the Bucks County Agricultural-Vocational Technical School.

There, students have a chance to take any photograph or videotape of a structure and convert it to a computer image, using Image Design Software, and put in landscape designs of any sort, including flowers, trees, or shrubs, and produce a picture of exactly what the design, when complete, will look like.

The new system impressed the board members of the local Scottsville Methodist Church so much that they recently awarded savings bonds totalling \$300 to two students of the program who designed landscaping for the church.

Many times, students have to draw out a landscape visualization design using geometrical shapes, and often cannot readily see their mistakes, especially in color use, balance, and other elements a drawing sometimes doesn't capture, according to Carl Vivaldi, horticulture instructor at the school.

The special "what you see is what you get system" shows exactly what the landscape design will look like, including placement, color, and other elements.

Vivaldi remembers seeing the same type of system in use during a tour at Delaware Valley College. He said it impressed him so much he decided to see if he could obtain it for his students.

"We obtained the funding through a Carl Perkin's grant," said Vivaldi. After seeing the college demonstration, and obtaining more information from a magazine, he requested and obtained a videotape about the system. The

process of applying for grants and getting approval took two years.

So far, about six students have had experience with the computer, including the two that were awarded for their designs. One student, Elizabeth Viviano, who will be a senior next school year, was awarded a first-place \$250 savings bond. Her design, together with elements from Ed Large's second-place design (who received a \$50 savings bond), will be implemented by the church next fall.

All the students will obtain the necessary material and will install all the landscaping at the church, according to Vivaldi.

Much of the impetus for the special program came from Vivaldi's own experiences as an FFA member at the Delcroft FFA Chapter in Delaware County. "I used all the experiences with my involvement in FFA and passed them on to my students," he said.

Vivaldi said that the program at the Bucks County Technical School has garnered several state and national winners, including involvement in the floricultural regional contests two years in a row and two national gold medal winners in landscaping two years in a row.

The Bucks Technical School includes students from six districts and three private schools. There, students attend the programs, including carpentry, masonry, auto mechanics, restaurant and hotel management, computers, photography, and many others for a two-week program every other two weeks.

In all, about 42 students are involved in three different project areas, including greenhouse management, floriculture, and landscape design.



Carl Vivaldi, Bucks Tech horticulture instructor, far right, poses with students at the entrance to the recent Philadelphia Fair. The students designed and constructed the special display at the fair.

## Espy Appoints Noss To National Board

**SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.)**  
— Atlantic Dairy Cooperative member and director David N. Noss, of Port Royal, was recently appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy to the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

Noss was among nine new members and three incumbents appointed to the board. He is to serve a three-year term as the Region 11 representative. He also has been assigned to serve on the Board's Public Relations and

Nutrition Education Committee.

Noss and his wife, Sharon, farm in partnership with his brother, Larry. They operate a 230-acre farm in Juniata County, where they milk 60 Holsteins. The Noss family has been a member of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative for 25 years.

Active in his community, Noss is past president of both the Juniata County Dairy Herd Improvement Association and the county Soil Conservation District. He currently serves on both the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing

Association and the Pennmarva Dairymen's Federation board of directors. He is an elder and choir member of the Port Royal Presbyterian Church.

The Nosses have two children, Karen and Ryan.

Established by the 1983 Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act, the National Dairy Board is composed of 36 dairy farmers representing 13 regions. The Board is responsible for administering the nationwide promotion, research and nutrition education program.

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