

The new down-link satellite dish for the AG*SAT system is inspected by, from left, Kathryn Hostetler, Cambria County extension director; Barbara Henderson, State Educational Technology Coordinator for AG*SAT; and Dr. Lamartine Hood, dean, College of Agricultural Sciences.

Cambria County Extension Showcases

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FORESTRY

The second part of the program Wednesday morning focused on urban and community forestry. Extension foresters are located at the four corners of the state and help communities plan and use their forest resources to best advantage.

The conflict between large trees and overhead electric power wires has been an on-going problem for more than 100 years. The new approach is to find varieties of trees that are beautiful but do not conflict with existing power systems.

Charles Olenik, president of the

Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council, said urban forests are one of our most precious resources, but many communities do not fully enjoy their benefits.

"Some community trees are declining due to old age and improper maintenance," Olenik said. "Wounds from building construction, roads, sidewalks and utility lines also help to deteriorate trees. Communities can enhance their trees, greenspaces, and urban wildlife by implementing a comprehensive and sustainable urban forestry management plan."

The extension urban forester's job is to help provide technical advice and plans of action for communities who want to increase their use of trees. In addition, extension provides workshops and other educational opportunities to communities and volunteer groups.

AG*SAT

Another exciting addition to the extension service program comes from what is called AG*SAT. Now with proper down-link capabilities, educational programs from 46 affiliated institutions in 40 states and two USDA agencies can be received for live input into educational programs or recorded on VCR for future use to supplement additional educational programs.

The first down-link in Pennsylvania was installed at the Cambria County extension office and has become an integral part of their educational programs. With the system, access to research and educational information is almost unlimited. Some programs have a users' fee, and others are free and can be picked up on home satellite systems.

Now additional down-links are planned for many extension offices across the state to be completed by the end of 1994.

In a report to the Council, Dean Lam Hood reported that enrollment in the PS College of Agricultural Sciences has increased by 515 students over the fall term of last year. Enrollment this fall is 2,535 students.

Hood also announced increases in scholarships, grants, and awards had brought the total in 1993 to \$512,774. A total of 340 students have received support from these funds.

In reviewing the college future committee recommendations, Hood emphasized the statement that the college will "maintain its traditional commitment to meeting the needs of the Pennsylvania food system, refocus family living programs on resource-stressed families and minority audiences, strengthen youth development programs, and enhance capacity to deliver quality educational programs that support rural development."

If the presentations on the program to the Ag Advisory Council at this meeting are indicative of what is happening in Penn State Extension offices across the state, the implementation of recommendations for the future has already begun now.

In the council's business meeting, Hugh MacWilliams, PA seedmen's Assn., and Dick Rossman, PA Assn. of Conservation Districts were elected to the second three-year term on the board of directors. Dave Ivan, PA Beef Council, and Bill Nichol, PA Holstein Assn., were elected to a first three-year term.

Earl Fink was elected president; Jay Rush, vice president; and Jack Dreibelbis secretary/treasurer. Pat Heuser, the new director of industry relations for the College of Agricultural Sciences, is the liaison between the college and the council.

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