

Christmas Tree Growers Honor Hommer Family

CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.) — Mrs. John (Jenny) Hommer, New Cumberland, was presented with a Life Membership Award by the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers at the association's recent Winter Membership Meeting here.

Hommer accepted the award on behalf of the John Hommer family, formerly of Glasgow, who for more than 40 years operated a successful lumber and Christmas tree business. Boyd E. Wolff, Pa. Secretary of Agriculture, and Joseph

Ahearn, PCTGA past president, presented the award.

Life Membership awards are presented to those individuals and families who have made lasting contributions to the Christmas tree industry.

The Hommer family joined the association in 1954, as one of the first members of the then "infant" association. At the peak of their Christmas tree business, the family had 10 farms with more than one million Christmas trees planted. John Hommer (deceased) was elected to the association's

board of directors in 1964 and served two three-year terms on the board.

In other business, Peter Abraczinskas, a fourth-generation Christmas tree grower from Catawissa, was elected president of the association. Other 1994 officers elected were vice president, Darryl Bowersox, Middleburg; secretary, Michael J. Weaver, Orbisonia; and treasurer, Sandy Walker, Lehighton.

The association also elected four new directors: David Laury, Walnutport; Norman McCurdy, Dillsburg; Bill Hagenbuch, Kingsley; and Craig Weidensaul, Wooster, Ohio. Re-elected to the board were Ellis Schmidt, Landenberg and Michael J. Weaver, Orbisonia.



Mrs. John (Jenny) Hommer, New Cumberland, center, was presented with a Life Membership Award by the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers at the association's recent Winter Membership Meeting in Carlisle. Also shown from left are Mrs. Hommer's daughters: Mrs. Joan Sober and Mrs. Jane Renshaw, along with Pa. Secretary of Agriculture Boyd E. Wolff, who presented the award with Joseph Ahearn, past-president of the grower's association.

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Grasslands Expo Set March 12

NORWICH, N.Y. — Farmers and agribusiness representatives are invited to attend the 1994 Grasslands Expo, scheduled Saturday, March 12, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Howard Johnson's (Fred's Inn) here in Norwich.

Scheduled for the annual expo are the following:

- New Zealand Overview — Tim Johnston, dairy herdsman
- Prescribed Grazing — Darrell Emmick, state grassland specialist, USDA Soil Conservation Service
- Balancing Dairy Rations While On Pasture — Sonny Golden, Golden and Associates, Springville, Pa.
- Maximum Profits From Grass: Farmers Talk Dollars and Cents (Producer Panel) — moderated by Julian Drelich, Jr.,

agronomist/grassland specialist, USDA Soil Conservation Service

• New York State Grassland Activity Update — Congressman James Walsh's office

• The Grass Is Greener On Our Side Of the Fence — Dave and Helen Forgy, Forgy's River-View Farm, Logansport, Ind.

• Hairy (Wooly) Solutions To Thorny Problems — Dr. William Bryan, West Virginia University

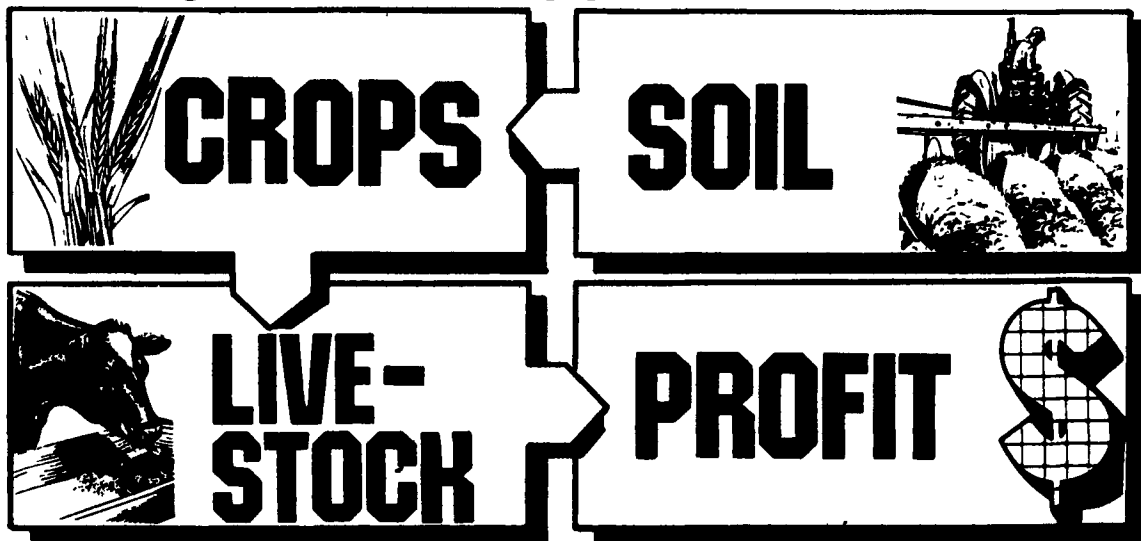
• Livestock Sessions — an opportunity to have your questions answered.

Sponsors of the event include Great Lakes Basin Intensive Rotational Grazing Network, Soil and Water Conservation Society (Empire State Chapter), the Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship, N.Y. Beef Cattlemen's Association, the Allegheny Plateau Sheep and Wool Producers, and the Catskill Alternative Agriculture Program.

Those agencies have helped to sponsor the expo in cooperation with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service, West Virginia University, county soil and water conservation districts, and other cooperating agencies.

For more information, contact Daniel Flaherty, Broome County Cooperative Extension, Binghamton, N.Y., (607) 772-8953, ext. 129.

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