

## Urban Cowboys And Girls Enroll In Agriculture

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**University of Delaware**  
NEWARK, Del. — What's a city slicker like you doing in a college like this? That question can hit an urban student in an agricultural college like a bale of wet hay. Jean Lonie, John McGoldrick, and Sarah Schroer — who respectively, come from Philadelphia, a Manhattan bedroom in New Jersey, and Wilmington, Delaware — city kids who are enrolled in the College of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Delaware. How did they get from city life to an agricultural college?

Lonie headed in this direction in the eighth grade when she decided to attend Philadelphia's W.B. Saul Agricultural High School. four years in a secondary school that incorporated animal science, horticulture, and agronomics into its daily curriculum, convinced her to continue agricultural studies at the collegiate level.

As an agriculture economics major, the sophomore says she'll have a better chance at landing a job than if she were getting a general business degree.

"The job market for ag majors is wide open," she says. "When you

think about it, so much comes under the title of agriculture. To some, agriculture equals farming. To me, agriculture equals life."

Lonie is still undecided about her exact career path. But she has considered becoming a spokesperson for an agricultural commodity group or getting a law degree and working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

McGoldrick had to fight a background of family and peers who had a limited view of career opportunities. Coming from a high school where everyone becomes a

lawyer, doctor or business executive made it hard for McGoldrick to convince his parents that majoring in wildlife conservation was a worthwhile career move.

The senior admits that when he enrolled at the university, he didn't even know there was a major in wildlife conservation. After three semesters of general study, a counselor in the university career planning and placement office steered him in the direction of the agricultural college.

Acknowledging his own once narrow view of agriculture, McGoldrick has become an ag ambassador for the college to help others understand the breadth of study available here. He says it's especially important to visit high schools to let those students know about the career possibilities in agricultural science.

"I'm really happy I got into this area," says McGoldrick, who is planning to study avian or landscape ecology at the graduate level. "I'm looking forward to all the possibilities in my career."

Schroer always wanted to be a veterinarian, so majoring in animal science was a logical choice. But

after working in a veterinarian's office she found that the business aspects didn't mesh with her romantic view. Fortunately her animal science laboratory work introduced her to the world of research, which she finds fascinating.

In working with a professor on a project, Schroer says, "I got a feel for the slowness of research and found that I liked the problem-solving aspects."

She's now applying to graduate schools to major in reproductive physiology. Although Schroer hadn't originally planned to major in an agriculture college, the senior says she's now glad that she did. Her background in biology and chemistry will serve her well in graduate school.

Each urban student has his or her own story of finding a path into the College of Agricultural Sciences. They all may feel a bit out of place at first. Actually, about 90 percent of all students enrolled in the college come from non-rural backgrounds. As the perception of what agriculture is broadens, so does the type of student attracted to the college.

## Orchid Show And Sale

**WILLIAMSPORT** (Lycoming Co.) — The Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society will hold its 29th annual Orchid Show at the Agricultural Arena on the Penn State Campus, Saturday, April 30, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show is open to the public and admission is free.

A discussion on orchid culture and problems will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday and at 11 a.m. on Sunday. A special hour on Sunday, from 9 p.m. to 10 a.m. is reserved for photographers. Orchid plants and potting supplies will be on sale. Books on orchids will be available.



## FFA HAPPENINGS

### Dover FFA Recognizes Members

The Dover FFA held its 42nd annual banquet on April 8 at the Wellsville Firehall, with Brian Smyser presiding.

More than 225 members, parents, guest and faculty were present. State FFA Sentinel Patrick Redding of Gettysburg provided a motivational introduction to the evening designed to recognize the achievements of the members and showcase their accomplishments.

Twenty-four new members received their Greenhand degrees, noting their enrollment in agricultural education courses, establishment of supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs, and participation in local FFA activities. Laura Lease was selected as Star Greenhand for involvement in FFA above the local level through the Made For Excellence Conference and the county and area parliamentary procedure contests.

Sixteen second-year members received the Chapter FFA Degree for their expanded efforts in SAE, increased involvement in leadership activities, and continued course work within agriculture education. Kelli Macdonald and Lester Baney were named Stars in Agribusiness and Production for having an outstanding record of achievement in these areas. Both received proficiency awards for their efforts.

Brian Smyser, Angie Hollinger, and Mandy Rogers also received special recognition for their accomplishments. Brian was named the 1994 DeKalb Award winner, which annual goes to the senior who, during the past four years, exhibits outstanding leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. Brian served as chapter officer for three years, received his state Keystone Degree, the Extemporaneous Public Speaking Award, and the State Project Book Bronze medal. Angie Hollinger was awarded the Chapter Scholarship Award for outstanding scholastic achievement during the past four years. Angie was also recognized for having received her state Keystone Degree. Mandy Rogers was presented the Agriscience Student Award for her research efforts in food science. Mandy is conducting an independent study in this area of agriculture.

Honorary membership in the Dover FFA Chapter was presented to Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Smyser and Larry Redding. Mr. & Mrs. Smyser, parents of Brian and Jed Smyser, were inducted into membership for their support of chapter activities such as dairy judging, the Halloween float, the chapter Halloween party, and banquet preparation. Redding is in his third year as co-advisor to the FFA chapter with Nick Stollar. Redding was recognized for his contribution to the FFA chapters' activities.

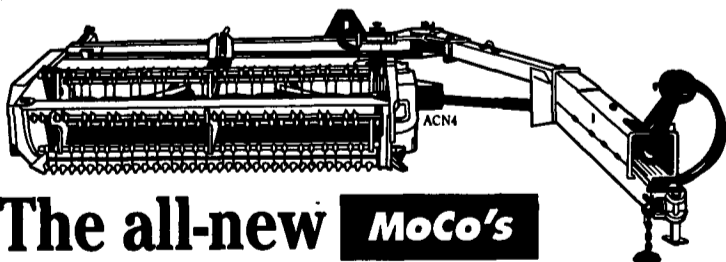
Proficiency awards were also presented to Derwin Lamberson in agricultural mechanics, James Shultz in ag sales and service, Lester Baney in crop production, Kristi Ryder in horse production, Jed Smyser in placement in ag production, Jason Brubaker in speciality animal production, and Jon Bish in swine production.

The banquet closed with the installation of the 1994-1995 officer team: Jon Bish, president; Jed Smyser, vice president; Amanda Roger, treasurer; Kelli Macdonald, secretary; Kristi Ryder, reporter; Harry Border, sentinel; Ryan Keller, chaplain; and Jason Brubaker, parliamentarian.

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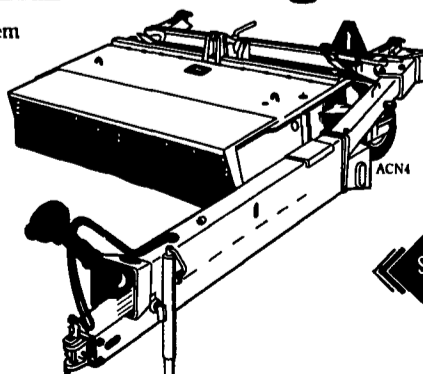
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