



HAPPENINGS

4-H Capon Roundup

The Cashtown Lions Club hosted the Annual 4-H Capon Roundup with a record setting sale. The grand champion was exhibited by Chris Shetter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Shetter, Gettysburg. The 10-pound capon was purchased by Bernard V. Miller, Sr. The reserve champion capon was exhibited by first-year project member Kim Stevens of Abbotstown. Kim's 12-pound, 1-ounce capon was purchased by Douglas M. Miller, contractor, Pole Buildings, New Oxford. Kim is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Stevens.

Edward Miller, chairman for this year's show and sale, reported 11 Adams County 4-H'ers participated in the 4-H Capon Roundup sponsored by the Cashtown Lions Club, the Adams County Poultry Association, and 4-H Clubs of Adams County Inc. Twenty-two capons sold for \$1091.18. The average price per pound was \$4.77. Miller said that the profit received by these junior executives from this 4-H capon business is used as operation capital for next year's 4-H capon project and serves to help meet future educational expenses.

The members were judged on the Danish System by Herb Jordan, retired poultry specialist at Penn State. The capons were evaluated on conformation, freedom from pin feathers, cuts, bruises, packaging, and dressing proce-

sure. Members receiving blue merit ribbons for exhibiting excellent quality capons were Laura Shetter, Tim Shetter, Dan Mummert, and Nate Mummert. Josh Ramsburg, Heather Stevens, and Langdon Ramsburg received red merit ribbons for exhibiting superior quality capons. Matt Winters and Christina Winters received white merit ribbons for exhibiting good quality capons.

Lloyd Spahr, Adams County Poultry Association president, presented the trophies to the champions. The Adams County Poultry Association purchased the trophies for roundup and purchased two capons to be donated to the Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen.

More information on 4-H in Adams County may be obtained by contacting the Adams County Cooperative Extension Service, 1135 Chambersburg Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325, or calling (717) 334-6271 or (717) 624-4525.

Junior Leadership Course

Bucks County 4-H, in cooperation with the Doylestown Toastmaster's Club, is offering the Junior Leadership Course to students 13 years of age and older.

Beginning February 6, the eight-week course will focus on skill development in public speaking, conducting meetings, and the basics of parliamentary procedure.

The course will be held at Neshaminy Manor Center from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday

Rural Children Face Homeless Woes

UNIVERSITY PARK, (Centre Co.) — Rural children are at a higher risk of poverty than urban children but receive less help from welfare, according to a new study of U.S. Census data from 1970, 1980, and 1990.

The study, conducted by Dr. Leif Jensen, professor of rural sociology in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, and Dr. David Eggebeen, professor of human development and family studies in Penn State's College of Health and Human Development, focused on sources of income for rural and urban families with children living below the poverty line.

"Our results may surprise people who usually think of poverty as an urban problem," Jensen says.

The researchers found that poverty is actually more prevalent in rural areas than urban ones. The average family income of poor rural families with children declined substantially over the 20-year period. In 1990, 21.1 percent of rural children lived below the poverty line, compared to 18.2 percent of urban children.

Despite higher poverty rates in rural areas, the study shows that rural families who receive welfare get less money than their urban counterparts. And rural children liv-

ing below the poverty line also are less likely than poor urban kids to receive welfare at all. Jensen and Eggebeen indicate that this gap in assistance is due only partly to higher rates of two-parent families and parental employment in rural areas.

The researchers say the high value placed on self-reliance by rural residents may make them reluctant to apply for welfare, even when they may qualify for benefits. The study also found that both urban and rural poor families rely more heavily on welfare now than in the 1970s or 1980s. Yet they receive less money from public assistance.

Jensen and Eggebeen found that the percentage of total family income from parental earnings declined steadily over the past two decades, due to declines in both

average parental earnings (adjusted for inflation) and the percentage of poor parents with any earnings at all. At the same time, the percentage of poor children whose parents received public assistance income increased steadily.

"Basically, the picture that emerges is of poor children in families that are relying increasingly on welfare, and decreasingly on the parental paycheck," Jensen said. "Unfortunately, our study also shows that welfare does not appreciably reduce the severity of poverty among children, who are, after all, the innocent victims of poverty," he said.

"Policy makers need to be aware that both rural and urban children are relying more heavily on a welfare system that is doing little to relieve poverty," Jensen says.

evenings. There is a fee of \$8. All teens are welcome and it is not necessary to belong to a 4-H Club to participate in this course. There will be a celebration including parents at the end of the course.

To enroll in the course, call the Penn State Cooperative Extension office, (610) 345-3283. 4-H programs are available to youth age 8-19 years.



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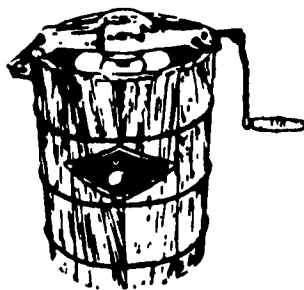
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