

# Bedford Extension Reaches Out To Area Needs

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**EVERETT (Bedford Co.)** —  
 "We at the Bedford County Extension Office experienced an extremely busy year," Susan Fox, one of the few women county extension/dairy directors in Pennsylvania, said at the recent annual meeting.

"We received more than 1,000 requests for information varying from homemaking to dairying problems."

Susan cites her most successful program in 1994, the "Scissor Cut Alfalfa Program," which generated more than 200 telephone calls.

"We went out into the fields every other day to take samplings of alfalfa and then did a lab analysis," she explains. "We used the local newspaper update line to provide the results."

"A Farm Safety project was another successful event with more than 85 farms accessing the information."

"In all of our programs we have tried to lean towards more participation," reveals Bedford's agent. "We are trying to get away from the old lecture type events."

"We've had some satellite tele-

conferences and farmers seem to be pleased with the results. We also offer some high quality videos."

Bedford County has a high number of woodland owners and the extension has provided support work through the Southern Central Council of Southern Alleghenies for woodland owners. A pro-ag group has been started in the county which has multiple purposes.

Another extension project in which Susan has become actively involved is the "Income Opportunities for Rural Areas," which is scheduled to be held in Bedford County in 1996.

And, while Susan keeps up her busy schedule wearing multiple hats, others on the staff do likewise.

Melanie Barkley is the extension 4-H/agriculture agent who was more than pleased with the pesticide update seminar she held last year. "We had more than 100 people there."

An annual Christmas tree meeting organized by Melanie brings about similar results with as many as 90 people attending.

Melanie also heads up the "Master Gardeners," program and has ten master gardeners involved in the area.

As the 4-H advisor, she is proud of all her groups. Chapman's Run has about 50 members involved in bees, sheep, swine, and dairy projects.

The Shawnee Lakers keep busy with multiple community projects.

This past summer, Melanie, with the help of summer assistant, Genny Washington, organized a Summer Fun Club getting both town and country kids involved.

With four volunteer leaders, they met four days a week and had nearly 20 to 25 kids in attendance on a daily basis.

These two were also instrumental in getting the Solid Waste Authority to provide a grant for a Recycling Day Camp.

Highly successful "inschool programs," have included, "Me That I Am—Me That I Can Be" for seventh and ninth graders.

A career development program resulted in area students participating in an agriculturally based career tour.

Other programs were "Meet the Plants," and "Kids In Control. The letter was offered to children who arrived home with no one to greet them each day.

"We try to teach leadership skill and like skills and encourage 4-H clubs and kids to make presentations and learn cooperation," sums up Melanie.

Janice Stoudnour heads up the Family Living division of Bedford County Extension.

Her parenting programs have been very popular with Janice organizing child-care training for people who run day cares.

She teaches self-esteem programs to kids and works with Melanie on the "Kids in Control," programs.

In a special financial program, training is offered to volunteers who, in turn, pass their newfound knowledge onto two others.

Church and club members ave been enthusiastic attending for themselves and for sharing what they learn with others.

A Master Super Cupboard program helps those in search of food at local food banks to know what to look for nutritionally and how to cook what is offered.

In another "knowledge sharing" program, six hours of training is offered to volunteers on the super cupboard program to be taught to at least two other families. At least 58 people completed the first three hours of training.

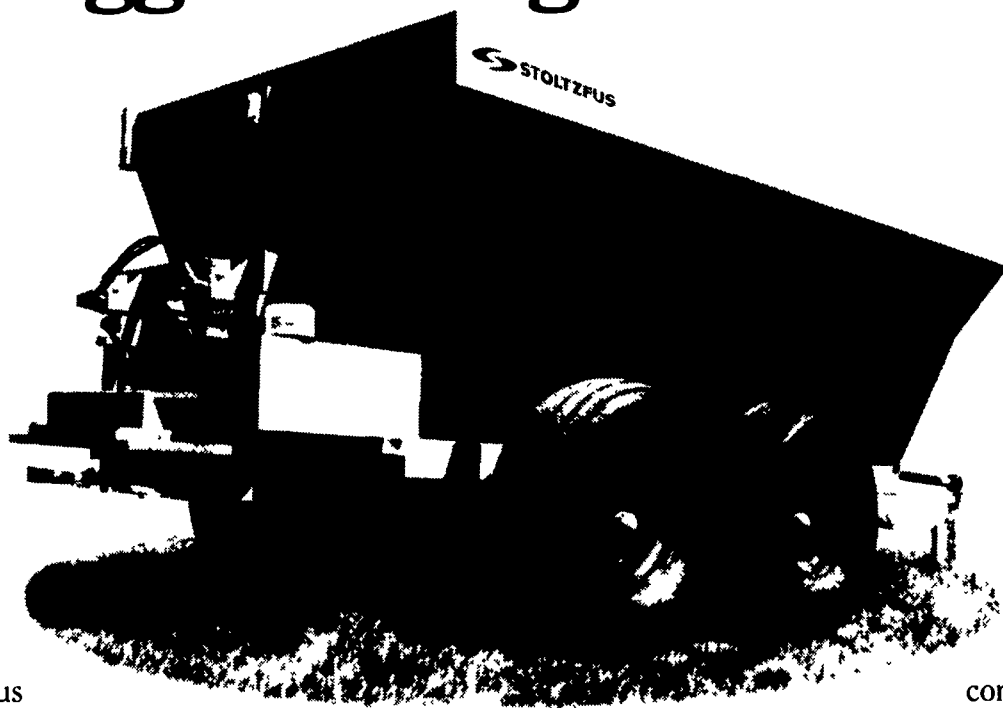
This year's annual meeting/banquet was held at the Everett Church of the Brethren. Officers for 1994-95 include Steve Wacker, president; Karen Kreiger, vice president; Thelma Albright, secretary; and Terry Moxley, treasurer. There are 20 local citizens on the board.

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Susan Fox, Bedford County extension/dairy agent, sums up a very busy years at the annual meeting held in Everett recently.

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