

AgrAbility Helps Farmers Stay In Field

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Tractors, combines, pesticides, livestock, and other tools of the agricultural trade make farming a risky profession. About 250 Pennsylvanians are permanently disabled by farm accidents every year, and many wind up leaving the agricultural profession.

A new statewide effort will help them stay in farming. AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians, a cooperative program of Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and the Easter Seal Society of Central Pennsylvania, helps agricultural

workers and their families cope with conditions that restrict their ability to perform farm tasks.

"AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians is concerned with more than farm accidents," said the project's director, Connie Baggett, associate professor of agricultural and extension education. "This project assists agricultural workers who have suffered heart attacks, strokes, lung diseases, breathing disorders and other maladies that hinder their ability to be active in the agricultural industry."

"Farmers have unique rehabili-

tion needs because of equipment operation, handling of animals, and other physically demanding tasks," said Doug Schaufler, project associate in agricultural and extension education and AgrAbility program manager. "But many farm families lack access to traditional rehabilitation services because farms are often in isolated areas and farm tasks cannot wait while the family seeks services.

"Our goal is to make rehabilitation services and information more accessible to the farm families that need them," he said.

To meet that goal, AgrAbility works with rehabilitation counselors, occupational and physical therapists and others to make sure farmers with disabilities know their options and can remain active in the agricultural community. The program also offers direct on-site services for farmers, including suggestions for modifying the farm or home; suggestions for adapting and modifying tools and equipment; and referrals to community rehabilitation resources.

AgrAbility's community services include efforts to raise awareness of the unique challenges faced by farmers with disabilities, specialized training for rehabilitation professionals and therapists, and educational programs on preventing farm injuries.

Penn State faculty members U.B. Bakker, associate professor of 4-H youth; James Hilton, associate professor of agricultural engineering and agricultural education; and Dennis Murphy, profes-

sor of agricultural engineering, provide expertise for the project.

According to the National Safety Council, approximately 130,000 people suffer disabling injuries on U.S. farms every year, each costing approximately \$27,000 in medical expenses, lost wages and other expenses.

The National AgrAbility Project was established by Congress in 1991 to close gaps in rural services that denied people with disabilities the ability to earn their living in agriculture. A grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture has enabled Pennsylvania to join 18 other states in providing guidance on adapting and using modified farm equipment and tools, making buildings and homes more accessible and changing farm operations to accommodate a disability.

For more information about AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians, contact Doug Schaufler at (814) 863-7868.

Shippensburg Holstein Show

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nis Hill of Shippensburg won the 4-H and open champion spots with his winter calf, Hills-Hope Barbados Rosita.

Brad Reichard was in the awards again when he captured

the FFA junior champion position with his winter calf, Oakleigh Encore Debra.

Troy D. Young of Greencastle took both the 4-H reserve and open reserve junior champion awards with his spring yearling,

JCY Broker Rachel-ET.

Benjamin Mickey of Chambersburg won the FFA reserve junior champion award.

Alan Hostetter was judge of the show.

Shippensburg Fair
Holstein Show Results

Spring Calf: 1. Rachele Young, 2. Aaron Horst, 3. Curtis Reichard. Winter Calf: 1. Dennis Hill, 2. Aaron Horst, 3. David Hill. Fall Calf: 1. Robert Harwood, 2. Michele Reasner, 3. Al-Hart Holsteins. Summer Yearling: 1. Craig Walton, 2. Beidel Brothers, 3. Brian Vamer. Spring Yearling: 1. Troy Young, 2. Guy and Sharon Hammond, 3. Aaron Young. Winter Yearling: 1. Donald Harwood, 2. Wendy Braund, 3. John Leib Jr. Fall Yearling: 1. Mitchell Naugle, 2. Chad Pottenger, 3. Julie Ann Dyrman. Dry Cows 3 Years & Over: 1. Kevin Horst, 2. Melinda Alexander, 3. Amy Kulick. Junior 2-Year-Old: 1. Scott Walton, 2. Al-Hart Holsteins, 3. Beidel Brothers. Senior 2-Year-Old: 1. Le Ida Farm, 2. Benjamin Mickey, 3. Le Ida Farm. Junior 3-Year-Old: 1. Harry and Aliene Thompson, 2. Jeffrey and Michele Reasner, 3. Galen Smith. Senior 3-Year-Old: 1. Leroy Showaker, 2. Le Ida Farm, 3. Elizabeth Walton. 4-Year-Old: 1. Elizabeth Walton, 2. Le Ida Farm, 3. Dabre-Elle Farms. 5-Year-Old: 1. Jeffrey Reasner. 100,000-Pound Class: 1. Harry and Aliene Thompson, 2. Galen Smith, 3. Donald Harwood. 6 Years & Over: 1. Brad Vamer, 2. Galen Smith.



The FFA Holstein grand and reserve champion awards went to Brian Reichard, FFA grand champion and Barbara Reichard, FFA reserve grand champion.

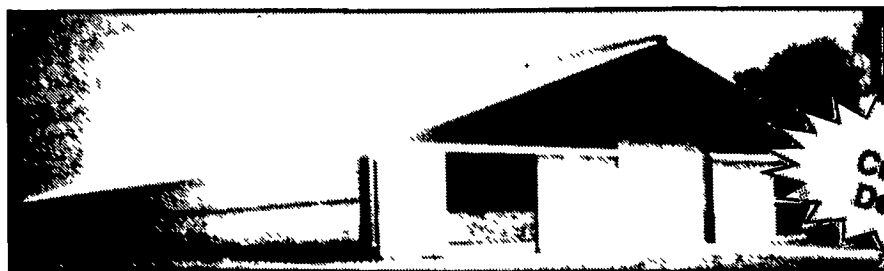
National Communication Award Winners Announced

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Nancy Kadwill, extension agent for Penn State Extension, will be honored at the Professional Improvement Conference of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) to be held here Aug. 20-24, according to Henry Bartholomew, national chair of the Communications Committee for NACAA.

Kadwill will be awarded a plaque and a cash award for placing second nationally in news feature photo category. The Excellence in Communication awards are to honor extension professionals from across the country for outstanding work in radio, video, news columns, and other educational materials. The Excellence in Communications Program had more than 1,000 entries in 1995.

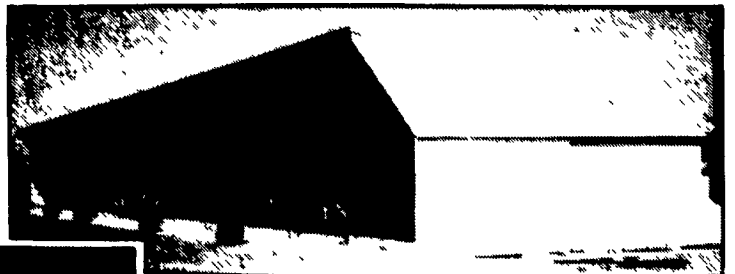
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