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Ag Teachers In Spotlight At National Conference

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

DENVER, Colo. — Several area agricultural teachers and supporters were honored last week at the annual National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (NVATA) conference here.

In addition, Greenwood High School agricultural science instructor Dr. MeeCee Baker was voted president-elect of the 8,000-member national association.

Baker, Port Royal, who has served with the Greenwood High School district in Millerstown since 1987, said she will work to

increase overall NVATA membership and to help educate members about some of the legislative places taking shape in Washington, D.C.

During her three-year term as vice president of Region VI, there has been a substantial increase in professional membership among agriculture education instructors. Baker will assume the duties of president of the association at the end of next year's annual conference, scheduled for Cincinnati, Ohio.

In a phone interview midweek with Baker, *Lancaster Farming*

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Newly installed National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (NVATA) President Tom Heffernan, Texas, far right, congratulates two successful candidates from Pennsylvania. Dr. MeeCee Baker, center, Greenwood High School, was elected NVATA president-elect after having completed a three-year term as Region VI vice president. Robert Lauffer, Garden Spot High School agriculture instructor, left, was elected alternate vice president for Region VI.

Lebanon Farm-City Program Catalyst For Mutual Respect

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — A strong message of mutual respect and new understanding was issued Tuesday night by city and farm participants in the Lebanon County Farm-City job exchange program.

North Annville-area Holstein breeder and dairy farmer Alan Hostetter and Lebanon insurance agent Bob Phillips participated in this year's Lebanon County Farm-City job exchange program earlier in the year, as did Bonnie Wenger of Wen Crest Farms near Scheafertown and Jan Boyer who runs

her own advertising business in town.

Each got up before more than 500 people who attended the annual Lebanon County Farm-City Banquet to tell of their job exchange adventures.

The program is designed so that

each participant spends a day working at his exchange partner's job.

Over the years, through the Lebanon Farm-City job exchange program, many have had the opportunity to learn a little more

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Cambria District Presents Farmer, Service Awards

LORETTA GOLDEN
Cambria Co. Correspondent

EBENSBURG (Cambria Co.) — The annual legislative luncheon of the Cambria County Conserva-

tion District was held on December 1, at the Penn Gables Restaurant, Route 22 west of Ebensburg.

Clair J. Dumm, district manager welcomed all those in attendance, which included representatives of federal, state, and other cooperating conservation agencies in addition to various state and local officials.

The primary function of the conservation district is being responsible to conduct and coordinate programs to protect and conserve our natural resources. This responsibility was the primary focus of the address given by guest speaker Dr. Bernard Hoffner.

Dr. Hoffner served as past president of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and was recently appointed to the PA Science and Technology Team by Governor Tom Ridge. Hoffner commended the local conservation district on its excellent reputation.

Honored at the luncheon was W. R. (Dick) Rossman, of Ebensburg for his outstanding service to the conservation district. Rossman had been a district director from 1972-95, and was chairman for 16 of those years. Rossman holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from Penn State University and is

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About 175 sellers and eight buyers watch as Mitch "Snake" Ashby, from North Carolina, in white jacket, calls off prices.

Growers Reluctant To Sell As Auction Season Opens

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.) —

"I think farmers need a raise," declared Paradise Auction Manager Eric Probst as the bell rang on Monday at the start of the annual county tobacco auction season.

However, the top price paid for tobacco on opening day Monday was unchanged from last year at \$1.25 per pound. The warehouse itself purchased about 8,000 pounds for a high of \$1.30 per pound. Average price was \$1.25 per pound.

On Monday, many sellers were reluctant to part with their number one cash crop, deciding instead to wait for potentially better prices in the days and weeks ahead.

About 175 sellers and eight buyers watched as Mitch "Snake" Ashby, from North Carolina, called off prices. Two skids at the start of the sale topped \$1.30, but only the high of \$1.25 registered from other buyers.

There were about 424,000 pounds of Maryland 609 on the floor at the sale Monday, and 61,328 pounds were sold. The same day last year was a Paradise Tobacco Auction record with a total

of 636,000 pounds on the floor.

This year boasted a great growing season, with early rains and

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Earl and Sandy Gelb and sons Joel and Brian share a special holiday tradition — that of giving to others — and spending time with each other during the busy holiday season. See the story and photos by Lou Ann Good on page B2.