

Ag Teachers In Spotlight At National Conference

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learned that there are many benefits for agriculture instructors with membership in NVATA.

"There are three components to the agricultural educational aspects of the membership program," said Baker. "One is the classroom aspect, providing workshops and materials for the ag teacher. Second is the FFA component. Third is the materials for supervised agriculture experience, which is very important to ag education."

A highlight of the membership program is that, as technology

changes rapidly, instructional materials and coursework will help ag teachers stay abreast of those changes.

Also, workshops will cover dealing with several hot issues in agricultural education, including the impact of animal welfare issues and show ring ethics. There are about 11 mailings per year to members about upcoming workshops and activities.

Baker said that now, about half of the certified ag instructors in Pennsylvania are members of NVATA, for a total of 101. Goals set three years ago by the NVATA

include having 12,000 members by the year 2000. There were 800 new members at the beginning of the membership year on June 30 this year. Cost per membership is \$155.

In Greenwood, which has a lot of support from the school board, according to Baker, 82 students were enrolled in ag instructional programs for grades 9-12. She is assisted by Wayne Zeigler, instructional aide.

Baker was graduated from Penn State with a degree in ag education in 1982. She taught in the Solanco school district in Lancaster County and then completed her master's degree at the University of Delaware in 1987. She began teaching at Greenwood in 1987 and completed her doctorate in ag education at Penn State last year.

Baker will work to strengthen the work of the NVATA through the state and six regional associations.

At the conference, Bob Lauffer, ag instructor at Garden Spot High School, was appointed alternate vice president for Region VI, including the states from Maine to Virginia and West Virginia.

Also, Roland J. Duperron, Jr., ag science instructor at Northern Potter High School in Ulysses, was honored with the Ideas Unlimited Award for Region VI. This program recognizes teachers for developing and sharing their innovative ideas.

Duperron told *Lancaster Farming* that the idea for "rent a plant" began in 1993, which involved "renting" potted plants for teachers and businesses in the area. Each plant rental was 50 cents and higher per week. In 1994, the program started a "rent to own" plant program, involving large, hanging baskets. The program continues in 1996 and involves about 12 students from the 85 enrolled in the school's ag science program.

The purpose of the program, said Duperron, was to involve ag science students in the "learn by doing" methods of growing the plants as part of the startup horticulture program and learning the aspects of a business.

Duperron said that the enterprise was operated as a business by students, involving sales planning, contracts, billing, and scheduling. "We even provided business perks and breakfast meetings for the students," he said.

Last year, at the school, several Headwaters FFA members started a "caged fish" aquaculture system. Several raised about 300 trout and marketed them for stocking and consumption.

Duperron has been teaching at Northern Potter for 32 years.

Carroll Shry of Woodsboro, Md., was one of six individuals who won an Outstanding Service Citation last week at the conference.

Shry teaches agriculture education in Frederick County, Md. He served as past NVATA president and region VI vice president, in addition to president of the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association.

Shry has authored a horticulture textbook called "Introductory Horticulture" and is writing an accompanying lab manual. The NVATA awards the Outstanding Service Citation to individuals who have contributed to the advancement of agricultural education on a regional or national level.

Dr. Samuel Curtis was presented with Honorary Life Mem-



Region VI Ideas Unlimited Award winner was Roland Duperron, Northern Potter High School, left. He is congratulated by Merle Richter, NVATA president.

ber recognition at the conference. Curtis was recognized for his outstanding leadership and contributions to ag education on a state, regional, and national level.

Curtis served as a professor and eventually was named department head of the agricultural education department at Penn State. He has served as a distinguished visiting professor at Ohio State University.

The Outstanding Cooperation Award was presented to Nancy and Bill Campbell, owners of Hoss' Steak and Sea House.

Bill and Nancy Campbell attend and purchase project animals at dozens of local fairs each year. Nancy Campbell, serving as co-chairperson of the Pennsylvania FFA Association board of trustees, has helped to orchestrate Hoss's Fore FFA Golf Tournament, which has become the Foundation's most successful fundraising event, raising more than \$20,000 last year.

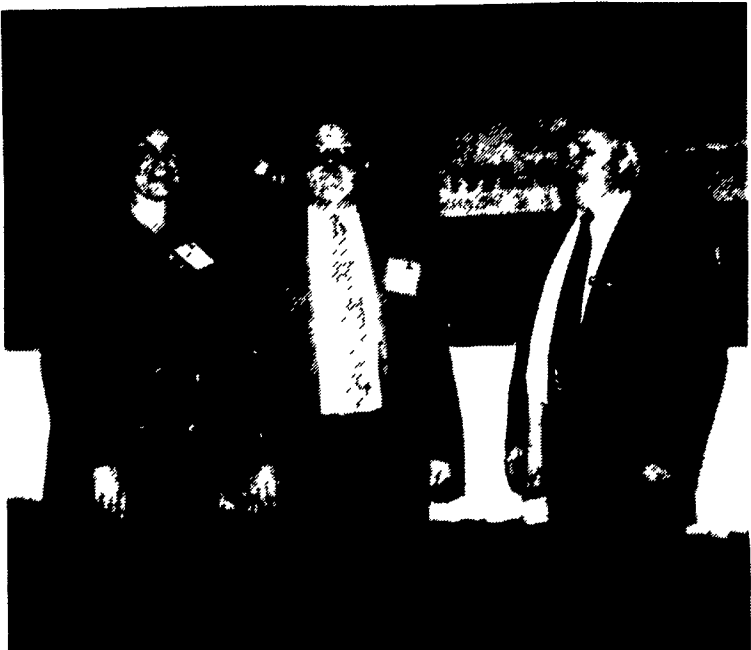
The award honors Hoss' commitment to the support of today's youth and the agricultural leaders of tomorrow.




Carroll Shry of Woodsboro, Md., was one of six individuals who won an Outstanding Service Citation last week at the NVATA conference in Denver, Colo.



Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Curtis with the plaque signifying Honorary Life Membership in NVATA.




From left, Nancy and Bill Campbell, owners of Hoss' Steak and Sea House, are congratulated by Merle Richter, NVATA president, as the Outstanding Cooperation Award winners of Region VI.



David A. Bigelow,
Training Coordinator

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mary I to get the full benefit of the program.

Pa. DHIA has requested time on Dairy Day activities to present this program to you. We are also requesting our county DHIA committees to schedule county meetings on Performance Economics.

Dr. Steve Ford or Dave Slusser will conduct these meetings.

If you cannot wait for a meeting, contact Judy Walker at Pa. DHIA. Our address is Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802, or call 1-800-DHI-TEST and Judy will send the program out to Pa. DHIA members free.

Pa. DHIA has embarked on a multi-step plan to help our members fight back in these troubled times. The first step was MUN (Milk Urea Nitrogen) analysis to control feed costs. The second step is Performance Economics.

Our goal in performance economics is to get 10 percent of our membership on the program. If we get that many or more, we plan to redesign a portion of Herd Summary I to give you an 8, 10 or 12 month cash flow projection. Stay tuned!