

Lehigh County Presents 4-H Awards

ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — Members of Lehigh County's 4-H beef, sheep, and swine clubs received recognition for achieve-

ment during the 1995 project year at a recent awards dinner.

Family members, friends, and other supports of the 4-H program

joined in an evening of dining, award presentations, dancing and fellowship at the Schnecksville Fire Company, Schnecksville.



Lehigh County 4-H Swine Club members, left to right - back two rows, Kelly Haas, Allentown; Corey Boger, New Tripoli; Shannon Wetzel, Kempton; Calvin Lazarus, III, Germansville; Tracy Lazarus, Germansville; Grant Lazarus, III, Germansville; Steven Daniels, New Tripoli; George Billig, New Tripoli; John Strawbridge, Whitehall; Jason Wisser, New Tripoli. Front two rows, Diana Bond, Kutztown; Roland Hottenstein, III, Kutztown; Michele Bond, Kutztown; Brad Humes, Orefield; Amy Wehr, Orefield; Justin Wisser, New Tripoli; Kelly Lazarus, Germansville; Elizabeth Wisser, New Tripoli; Stacey Dietrich, Germansville.



Sheep Club members, from left, back row, Lori Tyson, Kempton; Samantha Gressley, Fogelsville; Grant Lazarus, III, Germansville; Adam Rabenold, Allentown; Laura Segan, Allentown. Front row, Timothy Rabenold, Allentown; John Reinert, Orefield; Amy Wehr, Orefield; James Reinert, Orefield; John Strawbridge, Whitehall.



Beef Club members, from left, Crystal Wetzel, Kempton; Shannon Wetzel, Kempton; (front) Justin Wisser, New Tripoli; Kevin Smith, Germansville; Jason Wisser, New Tripoli; Elizabeth Wisser, New Tripoli.

Workshops To Cover Computer Record Keeping

WESTMINSTER, Md.—Keeping farm business records by hand is a proven method that has served well for decades.

But there are good reasons for computerizing your farm business records.

A computer can help you monitor and manage the farm business finances. You can track income and costs for different parts of the farm business in much more detail than with a hand record system.

Computers make it easier to analyze your past performance and make more informed production, marketing, and financial decisions in the future. Computerizing farm business records can also help in tax preparation and applying for loans.

Workshops in farm business computer record keeping are being offered through the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service. In these courses, you will be introduced to "Quicken," a low cost but powerful record keeping program that is relatively simple to use.

Using Quicken, you enter your income and expenses into the computer in much the same way that you use a checkbook register or your hand ledger. You classify your income and expenses according to IRS Schedule F categories that you are accustomed to. You can also classify your transactions by the different types of crop and livestock you produce so that you can do enterprise analysis.

Once the information is in Quicken you can develop various financial statements to help you manage your farm business better and do your taxes.

These workshops require about 10 hours of your time spread out over three different sessions. You will spend most of the time work-

ing on a computer using Quicken with an example farm business.

The course is geared toward, but not limited to, novices and prior experience with computers is not necessary. It is a good introduction for those who are considering buying a computer.

If you have a computer but have not yet computerized your farm records, this course will help you make the transition for the 1996 accounting year.

Survey results from previous participants indicate:

- Most have incorporated computer record keeping into their farm business operation.

- Many are utilizing Quicken as their record keeping system.

- Nearly all felt the workshop provided them sufficient introduction to computer record keeping to permit them to start computerizing their farm business records on their own.

- Computer record keeping has or will improve their farm business financial situation.

The next "Quicken" workshops are scheduled for Feb. 26, March 4 and 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Carroll Community College. For those not familiar with the use of a mouse or windows, these will be introduced during a familiarization session beginning at 9 a.m. on Feb. 26. Each workshop consists of three four-hour sessions.

Cost for the workshop is \$50 per farm/business (up to two people). This fee covers the cost for use of computer facilities and materials. Check should be made payable to "Carroll County EAC" and sent to Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157.

For more information on this and other Pro-Farm Extension programs, call (410) 848-4611.

Leadership Conference Feb. 20

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.)—A public affairs strategist who specializes in mobilizing grassroots support is on the program for the 1996 American Farm Bureau Federation National Leadership Conference on Feb. 20 at the Adams County extension office.

The teleconference, sponsored by the Adams County Farm Bureau, will be broadcast via satellite to 41 county locations throughout the country.

County farm bureau leaders and interested members will be updated on Farm Bureau's legislative and regulatory priorities—Environmental Issues, Regulatory Reform, Election '96, the Farm Bill, Trade and Tax Reform.

In addition, Ed Greffe will present a session on "Grassroots Action." Greffe is author of the book, "The New Corporate Activist, Harnessing the Power of Grassroots Tactics for your Organization." He is also chairperson of International Civics, Inc., a public relations and public affairs

consulting company that specializes in mobilizing grassroots support for policy issues.

The conference will be broadcast from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., eastern time, with registration beginning at 10:30 a.m. There will be a half-hour break from noon until 12:30 p.m. for lunch.

The format for the conference will allow roughly 20 minutes for a presentation followed by 10 minutes for questions and answers on each topic. Viewers will be able to fax or phone in their questions. American Farm Bureau president Dean Kleckner will also address the conference and take questions. Background handouts on the priority issues will be available at the conference sites.

"The best part about a video conference is that it's interactive and you can hear from people all over the country, many of whom couldn't attend the meeting otherwise," reports chairperson Fred Kammerer. No registration is required.