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Pennsylvania Young Farmers Hold Convention



The 1996 Pennsylvania Young Farmer Association's honorary young farmer is Doyle Paul. From left, Jim Stutzman presents the award to Doyle and Donna Paul.

GAY BROWNLEE

Somerset Co. Correspondent
SOMERSET (Somerset Co.)—Doyle Paul of the Berlin-Brothersvalley Chapter of Pennsylvania Young Farmers (PYFA) was named the PYFA 1996 Honorary Young Farmer at the awards banquet during the three-day PYFA state convention at the Ramada Inn.

Paul began his career 31 years ago at the Red Lion School District, York County, after graduating in 1965 from Penn State. Three years after, he returned to his native Berlin-Brothersvalley where, for the last 28 years he has staunchly supported his community, school district and church by serving on innumerable committees. He is a volunteer fireman and office holder and an ambulance driver.

"I'm truly honored ... I'm

speechless," he said.

"I thought I was on top of everything," he joked, adding that he wasn't sure how it was sneaked by him, but he suspected that Jon Cornish, superintendent of the Berlin-Brothersvalley School District, had a hand in it.

"My life has been truly blessed," he said, as his wife, Donna, stood by his side and 200 persons rose from their seats in a standing ovation. The Pauls are parents of three adult children.

David and Phoebe Bitler, Flectwood, Berks County, were awarded the state Outstanding Young Farmer Over 30. The state Outstanding Young Farmer Under 30 awardee was Jeffrey and Karen Zuck for Lebanon, Lebanon County.

The Bitlers belong to the PYFA's Kutztown Chapter of which Jon Stutzman is the advisor.

Their only son, Jesse is aged 10.

The rolling herd average of their Vista Grande Dairy Farm's 97 head of registered Holsteins is 21,541 pounds of milk and a BAA 106.4 in type. Additionally, they have 84 replacement heifers and 37 Holstein breeding bulls and steers that are marketable to local customers.

With numerous related awards to their credit, the Bitlers actively support dairy promotion, starting at home and expanding to national advertising and sales.

The Zucks belong to PYFA's Cedar Crest Chapter, where the advisor is Richard Moore.

With their three children, they reside on a rented farm of 100 acres, to which they relocated in 1993. They began in 1989 at another rental farm, with 50 cows and 50 replacements. Since then

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Crops Day Discussions On Weed Control, Nutrient Management

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster County Extension on Tuesday held its annual crops and soils day program in conjunction with the last public informational meeting of proposed regulations to carry out the state's Nutrient Management Act.

The event was held at the county Farm and Home Center in Lancaster. While the program was sponsored by Penn State Extension in Lancaster, agribusinesses helped

to offset the cost of lunch and refreshments, as well as having had exhibits of product displays.

The annual crops and soils day program is designed to update local farmers with information on changes in laws that affect them, to generally provide assessments on new products and services, and to provide information on techniques and skills that may help them make better decisions for crop production and environmental stewardship.

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Indiana FFA won over Lebanon 4-H at this year's Keystone Pork Bowl at the Pork Expo Wednesday, 160-145. The winning FFA team, from left, John Fyock, coach, Lisa Zack, Cathy Fyock, Matt Jewart, Jason Anthony, and Nathan Zack. Not pictured is Richard Stumpf, coach. See story on youth events at the expo on page A29.

More Than 300 Attend Pork Expo

Knowledge Of Meat Quality, Markets Is 'Source Of Wealth'

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — It was a strong message presented to pork producers, many of whom are trying to deal with low or no profit margins and what some see as a dismal future in the industry:

If you continue to operate your farm on "autopilot" and simply do the tasks that need to get done, the more you will enjoy less and less of a place in the industry, according to Dr. Dennis DePietre, a nationally recognized ag economist from the University of Missouri on Wednesday.

DePietre spoke to more than 100 who attended the seminar portion of the Keystone Pork Expo (for-

merly Pork Congress) at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center at the Lebanon Fairgrounds.

The key to survival is not simply producing pork, but rethinking your operation to produce a meat product that matches the demands for taste and quality by specific consumer markets, according to the economist.

"We live in a world which rewards knowledge," said DePietre. "Knowledge is the new wealth."

In the past four years, DePietre said he has sat at the kitchen tables of 350 farmers to see what they're experiencing. He has toured many slaughter plants and sees indications of where the industry is

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The scholarship winners at the Junior Holstein Convention are from left, Donald Harwood, Jill Harnish, and Jennifer Bashore. Bill Nichol, executive director of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, made the presentations. See full coverage of the convention starting on page D2.