

Cumberland County Extension Reports Challenging Year

BETH MILLER

Cumberland Co. Correspondent HUNTSDALE (Cumberland Co.) — When the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension held its 80th annual meeting at the Penn Township Fire Hall here recently, the message was clear: The extension had had another very good year.

It also was a challenging year, one filled with weather problems and sometimes with danger.

As noted in the extension's annual report, the toughest times in 1996 were filled with snow.

"Heavy snows caused several farm structures to collapse," the report states. "Extension's role included helping find alternative facilities for herds of milking cows, assisting in deciding what structures could be salvaged, providing assistance for rebuilding and cautioning the farming community of the many dangers that needed to be coped with during the winter storms."

Last winter's snows seemed like a distant memory; however, as the association members chowed down a turkey dinner and listened as the extension's 1996 accomplishments were outlined.

Speakers included Jennifer Beck and Michelle Cornman, who were representatives to the 4-H National Congress; Regional Farm Management Agent Roland Freund; and Millard Ilgenfritz and Lucie DeFrance, who outlined the Master Gardener Program.

The Master Gardener Class of 1995, which completed its volunteer requirement last year, also was introduced.

Members of that class are Linda Becker, Marsha Burkett, Martin Christopher, Amy Cronin, Julie D'Angelo, Lucie DeFrance, Dennis Derr, Louise Hitchcock, Patricia Hoover, Judith Marshall, Rebecca Probst, Deborah Puskar, Linda Rosenberry, Lucille Schaffer, Susan Skender, and Anne Springer.

Also during 1996, one of the county's agents, Laura Watts, became the first woman to become president of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents, and the chief agent, Duane Duncan, was re-elected as secretary of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

Other new programs saw the Master Gardeners start an inter-generational gardening club to benefit residents of the county



State Representative Al Masland congratulates Michelle Cornman, left, and Jennifer Beck, right, for attending the 4-H National Congress.



Receiving a 20-year service award was Mae Hemminger, center. Presenting the award at left is Earl Keller and Nancy Besch, right, both Cumberland County Commissioners.

nursing home, the beginning of a 4-H summer sewing club, and a Farm Safety Day Camp held in conjunction with the county Ag Expo.

Statistics for extension operations show 1996 was a busy year, even without those nasty blizzards.

The office handled 4,114 calls, 4,808 visits, and agents held 838 meetings on various topics that were attended by 26,485 people.

The Dairy Herd Improvement Association for the county logged 102 members and an enrollment of 7,116 cows.

There were 125 4-H adult

volunteer members who supervised programs involving 1,870 club members who produced 2,851 projects. The most popular project theme by far was embryology, which generated 1,111 projects, compared to the 391 for the second place theme, Meet the Plant.

The business segment of the annual meeting saw the re-election of the association's officers for 1997.

Roy Snoke received another term as president, Gayle Fry was re-elected vice president, and Cheryl Barrick was picked for another term as secretary.

Berks County Seeks Dairy Princess Contestants

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Berks County Dairy Princess Promotion Committee is seeking candidates to serve as Berks County Dairy Princess. All single young women from a dairy background or with an interest in the dairy industry should consider devoting a year of their spare time helping to further the interests of the industry.

The 1997-98 Berks County Dairy Princess will be selected on May 10. Deadline for registration is March 31. Anyone between 16-24 years of age and single

should contact Frances Davis, 1240 Fairview Dr., Leesport. The

Little Miss contestants' deadline will be April 25.

Nutrition Workshop

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — March is National Nutrition Month. To celebrate, Penn State Cooperative Extension in Chester County, Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, Suite 370, West Chester, is providing a nutrition program on Friday, March 7, 10 a.m.-noon.

Learn your sodium and fat limits. Find out how to boost your

calcium intake and lower your cholesterol intake. Marlene Nash, Extension Agent/Nutrition & Health, is a registered dietitian and is prepared to answer your questions on special diets.

There is no charge for this program but registration must be received no later than March 3. Call the Extension office at (610) 696-3500 to register.

SEE YOUR NEAREST



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