

Young Farmers Help FFA

KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — Kutztown FFA officers recently received a check from the Kutztown Young Farmer Chapter.

The check was used to pay for converting a garage to a building able to house animals. These animals are part of the students' school projects.

The check was presented at a school board meeting. Bill Zollers, president of Kutztown Young Farmers, presented the check to the FFA officers and he also thanked the school board for their support of the Kutztown Young Farmers Chapter and Vo Ag program over the past years.

Recently the Kutztown Young Farmers viewed a video of the Ukraine taken and narrated by James Patches.

Eight years ago a Ukraine family moved to Reistville. Four years later more family members moved to this settlement near Schaeffers-town.

Word from these Ukraine fami-



Kutztown Young Farmers donate funds for FFA. From left, FFA Vice President Kelly Berger, FFA Secretary Jenn Reinhard, Young Farmers President Bill Zollers, FFA President Kevin Bauscher, FFA Chaplain Keith Bauscher.

lies spread to Heidelberg Church of the Brethren of the needs of family members still living in the Ukraine. With the assistance of Christian Aide, Heidelberg Church of the Brethren sent a 40-foot container of used clothing, food, blankets, medical supplies, and church supplies in August

1996 to the Ukraine.

At the end of September 1996, James and Jean Patches (Heidelberg Church members) and 12 other people flew to Khiev and helped to distribute the goods to the areas the Ukraine families originated from.



James and Jean Patches, members of Heidelberg Church of the Brethren, presented a video to the Kutztown Young Farmers Chapter.

CAB Program Promotes Three Staff Members

WOOSTER, Ohio — Three executive promotions have been announced for the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program, the nation's largest specification-based branded beef program.

Tracey Erickson has been named assistant executive director. Rebecca Thomas is the new director of the CAB Program's international division, replacing Erickson, and Colby Horn is director of the CAB Program packing division. All three will work out of the Wooster, Ohio, headquarters.

Tracey Erickson was named an assistant executive director of the CAB Program. She joins the administrative division in overseeing daily Program operations.

"I am excited about the opportunity to interact with all Program staff and coordinate divisional efforts," she said.

Erickson will also be responsible for coordinating the Program's consumer-focused marketing efforts through its staff-based consumer task force. The task force was designed to build consumer brand awareness in Certified Angus Beef™ product. "Establishing a consumer focus is a very important direction for the program. We are starting a process that will continue in 1997 and beyond," Erickson said.

"After four years as the international division director, this new position certainly brings exciting challenges and opportunities," she

said. Since 1992, Erickson has been instrumental in developing sound licensing policies and procedures for the international division. Promotional materials and resources were also developed in a variety of foreign languages.

During her tenure, international sales increased by 325 percent to 34 million pounds in fiscal 1996. Today, Certified Angus Beef product is distributed to consumers in more than 30 international destinations.

Prior to joining the Program, Tracey earned her bachelor's degree in animal science and master's degree in the Agricultural Beef Industry Leadership Program at Colorado State University.

Rebecca Thomas has been

promoted to director of the CAB Program's international division. Formerly assistant director of this division, Thomas is responsible for overseeing program activities outside of the 50 states.

Thomas said, "Our main goal in 1997 is to increase consumer awareness around the globe." She also works with the marketing division to develop promotional and educational materials and plan events for the international division.

Rebecca received her bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in animal science with an industry concentration. Her experience includes serving as the assistant coordinator for the 1996 International Center at the Nation-

al Western Stock Show.

She and her husband, Robb, will relocate to Wooster, Ohio, in February 1997. "We are very excited to be coming to a new part of the country. I'm looking forward to working in the program's executive office and taking advantage of the exchange of information between all staff members," Thomas said.

Colby Horn was promoted to director of the CAB Program packing division. "I'm looking forward to working more with the production segments of the beef industry, as well as with each division of the CAB Program," Horn said.

As director, Horn coordinates the packing division from post-feedlot through fabrication. His responsibilities include addressing trademark issues, excess production and shortages concerning Certified Angus Beef product. He will also develop new plant startups and communicate with the USDA, and licensed program packers and fabricators.

He joined the program as an assistant director of the retail division in January 1996. Horn said, "It's been a beneficial year in retail. I've learned a lot being face-to-face with consumers and retailers, dealing with issues and solving problems."

Horn is a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in animal science/business. His production experience comes from being a herd consultant and owning a herd of purebred Angus cows. In addition, Horn gained retail experience as a meat cutter at Wal-Mart Supercenter and through various fabrication experiences.

He said, "I think it is important to understand each segment of the beef industry in order to effectively communicate problems, and ultimately help solve them."

Horn and his wife, Amy, are living in Wooster with their daughter, Karlye.

Established in 1978 as a division of the American Angus Association, the CAB program's goal is to increase demand for Angus cattle by providing consumers with a flavorful, high quality beef product. The CAB program works with producers, packers, fabricators and processor/manufacturers to address customer demands in the international, food service, and retail marketplace.

Animal Production Food Safety Conference Set

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI) announced it will host a Conference on Animal Production Food Safety, April 1-3 in Columbus, Ohio.

On July 25, 1996, a major reform of USDA food safety regula-

tions known as "Pathogen Reduction and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)" set new requirements for meat and poultry slaughtering and processing plants. The first stage of the rule's implementation went into effect recently and its impact on food animal production remains to be

seen.

Keynote presentations, seminars, and panels will include the following: public health perspective, retail/food service perspectives, balancing perceptions with science in addressing safe food policy, realistic expectations and

likely ramifications of HACCP on food animal production, focus on current quality driven initiatives, animal identification in a production food safety environment, understanding consumer expectations and trends, and what is expected to compete in a global market?

"An outstanding lineup of prominent industry leaders, researchers, and government officials will speak at the conference," said Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, director of animal industry for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. "We expect that with the knowledge assembled at the conference, we will be able to address a number of key issues specific to HACCP's likely impact on food animal production."

Breitmeyer is the chairman of LCI's Food Safety Assurance Committee and chairs the conference's program committee, made up of a cross section of leaders and officials involved throughout animal agriculture.

Among other organizations assisting LCI in planning the conference are American Farm Bureau Federation, American Society of Animal Science, American Veterinary Medical Association, United States Animal Health Association, and USDA's Food Safety & Inspection Service.

The conference will be held in conjunction with LCI's 81st annual meeting. To obtain program and registration information, contact LCI at (502) 782-9798.

Sheep & Wool Festival Announces Events

GLENWOOD, Md. — Budd Martin will evaluate fine and medium wool breeds while Jim Marshall will pick the longwool prizewinners Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4 for the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship.

This year the festival is pleased to welcome the National Karakul, National Border Leicester, and Natural Colored Border Leicester shows to the lineup. Other classes include Columbia, Corriedale, Lincoln, Rambouillet, Romney, Black Lincoln, Black Romney, white wool division, and natural colored division.

Breeders from across the U.S. and Canada will bring nearly 1,000 animals to compete. Deadline for entries is March 15. Questions regarding the sheep show only should be directed to Natalie Glunz at (717) 838-6863.

"Loom Land," a special exhibit presented by five leading loom manufacturers, will give visitors the chance to understand and try out different types of weaving equipment. Mountain Loom Co.,

Good Wood Co., Schacht Spindle Co., Kessenich Looms, and Norsk Fjord will have looms warped and ready for people to try out in "Loom Land."

In addition to providing demonstrations and advice, representatives of these firms will be leading seminars throughout the weekend, with topics spanning the workings of a loom, matching equipment to projects, eight-harness table looms, tapestry and west-faced weaving. Several classes will be geared to children and teenagers included "Weaving on a Paper Plate Loom." These and other weekend crafts sessions are free of charge or require only a nominal fee.

Prior to the official opening of the festival, three in-depth fiber-craft workshops led by nationally renowned artisans will be held. On Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 2, Deb Menz will cover dyeing and blending on a drum carder and spinning. Participants will be dyeing roving, then splitting and recombining the fiber to make both vivid solids and variegated colored yarn.

Margaret Fisher will teach "sock hitting" in another Thursday class, explaining how to design, turn the heel, and use the Kirchner method of weaving off for a seamless toe. Previous experience casting on, knitting, and purling is assumed. On Friday and Saturday, Nancy Harvey will present "Tapestry Weaving." This class for beginners will cover both design and technique. These popular workshops carry a fee and registration is limited. Sign-ups will be taken by phone at (410) 531-3647 on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 8 a.m. on April 21.

The fairgrounds are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday (crafts buildings close at 6 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday). Attendees may not bring dogs on the fairgrounds. General questions should be directed to Leslie Bauer at the Festival office, P.O. Box 99, Glenwood, MD 21738, (410) 531-3647.