

Schuylkill County Presents Conservation Awards

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN
(Schuylkill Co.) — The Schuylkill County Conservation District presented its annual conservation awards recently during a ceremony that included recognition of the national Envirothon team, from Blue Mountain High School.

Each year the county district recognizes individuals, groups and area businesses who or that have contributed to the improvement of the environment. The awards were presented by Barron "Boots" Hetherington, district chairman.

The volunteer of the year was Barbara Leymeister-Jucker of Schuylkill Haven for her contributions to both the conservation district and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary environmental education programs.

In addition she organized a clean-up of the Landingville Marsh that involved the state Department of Environmental Protection and the public. Tons of trash were removed and access road gated to thwart future dumping.

Leymeister-Jucker assists Peggy Hentz of the Red Creek Wildlife Center with rehabilitating wildlife, as well as being involved in local watershed associations. She was most recently involved in the installation of an Osprey hacking tower at the Landingville Marsh.

The educator of the year was

Ray Gaston of the Schuylkill Career and Technology Center, Mar Lin. Now retired, according to the conservation district, Ray has "... challenged students in his program, both youth and adult from throughout the county, with an extensive horticulture program. He has developed a program which focuses on everything from flower shop management to environmental water quality control for aquaculture."

The professional of the year was Steve Hower, formerly the wildlife conservation officer for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and now director of law enforcement for the PGC Southeast Regional Office. He was recognized for his efforts to both educate the public and enforce conservation laws.

The media conservation award was presented to WNEP Channel 16, for their Pa. Outdoor Life television show.

The forest stewardship award was presented to the Auburn Game and Fish Association for its efforts to improve the environment and environmental education.

According to the conservation district, "This group actively involves young people in conservation measures that they pursue. This award is made in cooperation with the DCNR-Bureau of Forestry and is in keeping with conservation district goals of promoting wildlife habitat improvement."

The district's Cooperator of the Year award was presented to



From the left, "Porcupine" Pat McKinney, conservation district director for Schuylkill County, congratulates representatives of the Auburn Game and Fish Association for winning the county forest stewardship award. Association representatives include, from the left, Gil Steffy, Lloyd Kerschner, and Kenneth Steffy.

Alvin, Craig and Larry Wetzel and their families.

The award is selected from among the 1,200 landowners in the county who are cooperators with the district.

The award is based on the landowner's innovative applications of several conservation practices that help conserve soil and improve water quality.

"The assistance provided to a farmer by the Schuylkill Conservation District and (the USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service is incorporated into a farm conservation plan, which in the case of Wetzel's farms, serves as a model to other farmers that soil and water conservation practices are cost effective and can be incorporated into a successful farming operation," Hetherington said.

The Wetzels grow corn, soybeans, buckwheat, cabbage, sweet corn, and pumpkins on 400 acres. The home farm consists of 83 acres.

The Wetzels contract with Agri-Basics Soil Service of Shippensburg provides them with soil tests and management for insect disease and weed control, so as to only apply necessary fertilizers and pesticides.

The farm is located along Rt.125 in Valley View.



1997
CONSERVATION FARMER
WETZEL BROTHERS FARMS
PRESENTED BY THE
SCHUYLKILL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

From the left, Brad Stutzman with Agri-Basics Soil Service and Alvin Wetzel, one of the brothers who own the farm, stand behind the farm sign announcing the farm's honor bestowed by the county Conservation District.

Livestock Sale Sept. 4

ERIE (Erie Co.) — Interested in filling your freezer with high quality beef, lamb, or pork? Then come on out to the annual 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The sale will be held in conjunction with the Waterford Fair, and it will get under way promptly at 6 p.m. with the sale of the grand and reserve champion market lambs, followed by the sale of the balance of the market lambs.

The grand and reserve champion market hogs will be sold next, followed by the sale of the balance of the market hogs. The sale will close with the sale of the grand and reserve market steers, followed by the sale of the balance of the market steers.

According to John Rhea, 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale Committee chairman, all buyers at the sale will receive excellent quality meat and will be encouraging area youth in a worthwhile educational experience. The sale culminates the long project year for the approximately 65 4-H and FFA members who participate. Many of these young people selected their feeder calves nearly a year ago, and now these steers are ready for market, having been grain-fed throughout the past 10 months. Lambs and hogs were selected in the spring, and they've also been carefully raised for market over the past several months.

In all, approximately 30 steers, 20 market lambs, and 40 market hogs will be offered for sale on Sept. 4. All hogs offered for sale

will be judged at the Waterford Fair on Monday afternoon, Sept. 1. Lambs will be judged on Tuesday evening, Sept. 2, and the steers will be judged on Wednesday evening, Sept. 3.

Auctioneers for the 1997 sale will include Raleigh Chesley, of Chesley Auctioneers, North East; Doug Chesley, of Chesley Auctioneering, North East; Sherm Allen of C. Sherman Allen, Auctioneer, and Associates, Conneaut Lake; Ronnie Reed of Norvel Reed and Sons, Sherman, N.Y.; Jeff Bennett of the Union City Livestock Auction, Union City; and Gary Shidemantle, of Gary's Sales Service, Edinboro. These auctioneers will sell all of the livestock to the highest bidder. In addition, one animal will be selected for sale by a celebrity auctioneer. Last year's celebrity auctioneers were instrumental in selling their animals above the average market price set at the Sale.

This year's auction will also feature the sale of a "charity" hog. This market hog was donated as a feeder pig to the 4-H program in the spring by 4-H volunteer leaders Marty and John Kosiorek. The proceeds from its sale will benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank in Erie. This hog is being raised by members of the True Grit 4-H Club. The charity hog will be sold at the end of the hog sale order, at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 4.

Contact the Erie County Cooperative Extension Office at (814) 825-0900 for more information.

Outstanding Holstein Junior Exhibitors Receive Judi Collinsworth Awards

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Five outstanding Junior Holstein exhibitors have been recognized for their achievements with Judi Collinsworth Outstanding Junior Exhibitor Memorial awards. The award is intended to recognize Junior Holstein exhibitors for their efforts and interests in all aspects of the Holstein industry.

Nicolas Buttars of Lewiston, Utah was awarded the Judi Collinsworth Outstanding Junior Exhibitor Award at the Western National Spring Show held in Richmond, Utah. Nicolas is the 19-year-old son of Kent and Robyn Buttars and is currently attending Utah State University where he is working toward his degree in the dairy herdsman short course.

Sarah Council comes from Charleston, Akr. Sarah was recently

awarded Outstanding Junior Exhibitor at the Southern National Spring Show in Springfield, Mo. Sarah is the 17-year-old daughter of Charles and Emily Council and is going to be a senior in the fall at County Line High School. After high school Sarah plans to attend a four-year university and major in animal science with a concentration in reproductive physiology.

Carrie Edsall from Pine Island, N.Y. is the 20-year-old daughter of Harry and Donna Edsall. Carrie was the winner of the Judi Collinsworth Exhibitor Award at the Eastern National Spring Show in Syracuse, N.Y. Carrie is currently attending Cornell University where she is studying animal science and plans on graduating in 1998.

Reedsville, Wis. is the home of

Amy Hagenow. Amy is the 18-year-old daughter of Carl and Ruth Hagenow and the late Kathryn Hagenow. Amy earned the Judi Collinsworth Outstanding Junior Exhibitor Memorial Award at the Mid-West National Spring

Show held in Jefferson, Wis. Amy is currently attending the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at UW-Madison where she is majoring in dairy science and agricultural journalism.

Anne Spreng from Bucyrus, Ohio was awarded the Outstanding Junior Exhibitor Award at the Mid-East National Spring Show in Columbus, Ohio. Anne is the daughter of John and Suzann Spreng and is currently majoring in economics management and minoring in accounting at Ohio Wesleyan University.

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