

Berks County Applauds Outstanding Farm Family, Youth

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may not think of her and her husband as farmers, but that they rely upon the soil and are agriculturally affiliated with the labor intensive business of operating 12 greenhouses.

The Ernst family raises 24,000 poinsettias, 10,000 geraniums, 2,500 mums, 3,000 azaleas, and 3,000 lilies.

Four outstanding youth also received awards and \$100 bonds for their commitment to agriculture and outstanding work in their particular field. These included two FFA members and two 4-H members.

Lynette Heffner and Josh Lawrey were selected for outstanding service by FFA advisers. Anita Manbeck and Brandon Treichler were selected by 4-H agents.

Lynette recently began studying food science at Penn State. She was graduated from Conrad Weiser High School, where she was active in FFA. Growing up on a farm, Lynette gradually took on more and more duties. At present she helps feed the calves, milk the herd, clip the udders, and body clip the 2-year-old cows.

Despite her involvement on the farm, Lynette participated in

numerous ag-related extracurricular activities. One of these included traveling to the United Kingdom and Ireland as a People to People student ambassador.

In addition to FFA awards, Lynette received numerous awards from the Holstein Association, 4-H, and for showing dairy and beef cattle. She has also received the Young Woman of the Month from the Women's Club of Robeson, the Robeson Rotary Club Student of the Month, and the department award for agriculture and biology student of her class. Lynette is the daughter of Martha Pool and Gary Heffner.

Twin Valley FFA member Josh Lawrey is best known for his envirothon involvement and habitat improvement projects. He participated in four state Envirothons and been selected in January as the Eastern Pennsylvania FFA Star for Specialty agriculture. He received the award for his wildlife conservation projects that included laying out and helping construct the school environmental educational trails. He also constructed a mini-exhibit on bats, which received first place at Kutztown, Allentown, and Reading fairs and the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Because Josh is a student at Slippery Rock University majoring in environmental education, he was unable to attend the awards banquet. His parents, Dot and Gerald Lawrey, Green Hills, accepted the award on his behalf.

For eight years Anita Manbeck has been an active member of the swine and beef 4-H clubs. She has received numerous awards for showing livestock and is a member of the livestock judging team. Anita has served in a 4-H advisory and representative capacity and as a teen leader. She helped with the "Farm to You" program presented to schools. Anita is a senior at Conrad Weiser High School and the daughter of Herman and Connie Manbeck, Womelsdorf.

Brandon has excelled in Dairy Bowl and judging events. He has also exhibited the supreme champion at the Kutztown Fair. Brandon was selected as number one to represent Pennsylvania at the National Dairy Conference. He also attended the Governors School of



Wayne Readinger presents the Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award to Walter and Linda Ernst.

Agriculture.

The son of Keith and Sue Treichler of Kutztown, Brandon serves as president of the Eastern Berks 4-H Dairy Club and has helped teach the "Farm to You" project at the Goddard School in Wyomissing.

Secretary of Agriculture Hayes applauded the achievements of the Ernst family and the youth by reading congratulatory citations.

He also reported that in the past, agriculture did not receive a fair

share of taxes paid. "But this year, Governor Ridge and lawmakers gave agriculture a good budget to provide the tools necessary to help support the ag issues that we feel so strongly about," he said.

"I am convinced we can find answers to agriculture problems if we will continue to work together," Hayes said. "Farm families, who provide food, fiber, and shelter, built a great America and a great Pennsylvania."

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