

## Berks County Honors 4-H Members

LEESPORT (Berks Co) — On Saturday Nov. 7, the Berks County 4-H Livestock Clubs held their annual awards banquet at the Kutztown Grange hall.

4-H'ers, buyers, family and friends enjoyed a great meal of 4-H beef, pork, and lamb. There were many awards presented to the 4-H'ers for their accomplishments for the 1998 4-H year.

The award winners were as follows:

•Beef Club: Kyle Zerbe, Most Helpful Member, senior fitter, senior project book; Mark Manwiller, senior showman, senior Skill-a-thon, reserve champion market project; Ben Weist, intermediate showman, intermediate Skill-a-thon, intermediate project and record book, champion market project, champion market heifer; Kristy Dietrich, junior intermediate showman, junior intermediate Skill-a-thon, most weight gain steer, reserve champion market project, reserve champion heifer; Amanda Gauker, junior showman; Kelly Dietrich, intermedi-

ate fitter, senior record book; Emilie Miller, junior intermediate fitter; intermediate record book; Renee Phillips, junior fitter and junior Skill-a-thon; Nathan Stump; junior record and junior project book.

•Swine Club: Gwen Powers, rookie of the year, junior showman; Anita Manbeck, senior showman; Cathy Levan, intermediate showman; Ben Weist, senior fitter, senior Skill-a-thon, senior project books, reserve champion market project; Jared Treichler, intermediate fitter, intermediate Skill-a-thon, intermediate record book, champion market project; Kim Angstadt, junior fitter, junior project book; and Jason Levan, junior Skill-a-thon. Also recognized were Brian Peiffer, intermediate project book; Kelly Peiffer, senior record book; and Stacey Manbeck, junior record books.

•Sheep Club: Jill Neiman, senior shepherd, senior intermediate showman, senior intermediate fitter, intermediate project book; Amanda Guaker, junior shepherd, junior record book;



Beef Club members honored. Front, from left, Nathan Stump, Renee Phillips and Amanda Gauker, In back from left, Leader Darlene Weist, Kyle Zerbe, Kristy Dietrich, Emilie Miller, Ben Weist, Mark Manwiller, Jim Holcombe-leader.

William Willits, III, senior showman, senior fitter, senior Skill-a-thon, champion market project; Cathy Levan, senior intermediate showman, intermediate record book; Amanda Miller, junior intermediate showman, junior intermediate fitter; Carrie Hartman, junior showman; Emily Hannon, junior fit-

ter; Jason Levan, junior fitter. Skill-a-thon, reserve champion market project; Lee Gauker, senior intermediate Skill-a-thon, champion market lamb pair; Kellie Graef, junior intermediate Skill-a-thon, junior project book; Ashley Shollenberger, senior project book; and Kelly Glaser, senior record.

## Keep Hunting Safe

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — When Pennsylvania deer season begins on Nov. 30, an estimated one million hunters will head for the woods. Both hunters and landowners need to keep safety in mind, says an expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Many hunters use the property of farmers and other landowners," says Earle Robbins, Penn State Cooperative Extension agent in Tioga County. "Cooperation and mutual understanding between hunters and hosts is the key to keeping everyone involved safe and satisfied."

If you host hunters this year, make sure your guests are responsible and mature. "If you have any doubts about hunters who ask to use your land, it's probably best to say no," Robbins warns. "Make sure guests know how you expect the land to be treated and ask if they have any questions about the property and your expectations."

Check your property before letting anyone use it. "Walk around your land before the season starts and look for hazards," Robbins says. "Your guests aren't as familiar with your land as you are, so you may see dangers they wouldn't. Warn hunters about hazards and post warning signs if needed. If you want parts of your land left alone, say so."

Hunters should never assume they have a right to hunt on property not posted with "no trespassing" signs. "Always ask permission to hunt on private property," Robbins says. "Hunting and trapping are privileges in Pennsylvania. A license does not entitle you to trespass on private lands."

If you get permission, ask the landowner about potential haz-

ards on the property and whether any sections are off-limits. "Always obey the owner's rules and respect his or her property," Robbins says. "Behave the way you would like a guest to behave in your home."

Hunters must strictly follow Pennsylvania Game Commission rules on safety. "Wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back," Robbins says. "Camouflage fluorescent orange may satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches. Remember that it's illegal to hunt within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, or school or playground without permission. This creates a safety zone roughly the size of one and a half football fields."

Always follow basic safety rules. "Handle a gun as if it's loaded, even if you're positive it's not," he says. "It's an extremely bad idea to cross a fence or stream with a loaded firearm. Unload it and place it through the fence before you go over or under. Never stand a loaded gun against a tree, wall or vehicle where it could be knocked over and discharged. Unload it and place it on a flat surface instead."

Finally, Robbins advises hunters and their hosts to promote safety by reporting violations and injuries to the Pennsylvania Game Commission as soon as possible. "If you have questions about specific hunting regulations, contact the game commission," Robbins also recommends "A Digest of Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Regulations," published by the game commission. "It's an excellent summary of regulations and offers many safe hunting tips," he says.



Swine Club members Back from left, honored. Anita Manbeck, Kelly Peiffer, and Brian Peiffer. Front, from left, Cathy Levan, Kim Angstadt, Jason Levan, Gwen Powers, Stacey Manbeck, Ben Weist, and Jared Treichler.



Sheep Club members honored, back, from left, Ashley Shollenberger, Jill Neiman, Amanda Miller, Cathy Levan, Lee Gauker William Willits, III, and William Willits II, leader. In front, from left, Jason Levan, Carrie Hartman, Emily Hannon and Amanda Gauker.