



Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association Presents Awards

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — In a change from previous years, the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association held its annual awards banquet last week, along with the Pennsylvania Dairy Futures Conference, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel instead of holding it in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.

Since 1976, the Dairymen's Association presents the Charles E. Cowan Memorial Award each year to a Pennsylvania dairyman who contributes to the improvement and promotion of the Pennsylvania dairy industry. Other annual honorees are the Pennsylvania Distinguished Dairy Woman and the Extension Agent Award.

This year, Richard Waybright from Gettysburg was presented with the Charles C. Cowan award for his superior management capabilities as shown with his ownership and management of the 365-acre Mason Dixon Farms, Inc., and

his outstanding leadership qualities within the dairy industry.

The recipient of the 1999 Pennsylvania Distinguished Dairy Women Award is Elaine Sollenberger of Everett. Elaine, along with her husband Ray, have had lifelong involvement with the Pennsylvania Jersey Association.

And the 1999 Extension Agent Award recipient is George C. Wilcox, senior extension agent in Erie County.

Today, Waybright's farm has 50 employees to care for the needs of 2,000 milking cows and 1,700 replacement heifers. They manage 2,000 acres of alfalfa, grass and corn to supply forage to the dairy herd. He is known nationally and worldwide as a progressive innovator in production agriculture.

In 1979 Mason Dixon Farms built their own animal anaerobic digester system to produce biogas that is used to produce all the electricity for the farms and four homes. Because of this achievement, in 1980 the farm received the "White House Award for Biogas

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The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association presented its annual awards last week. From left, Frank Orner, president; Lori Sollenberger accepting the Distinguished Dairy Women award for her mother Elaine Sollenberger; George Wilcox, extension award recipient; and Richard Waybright, recipient of the Charles E. Cowman Memorial Award.

State Agriculture Teachers Attend National Conference

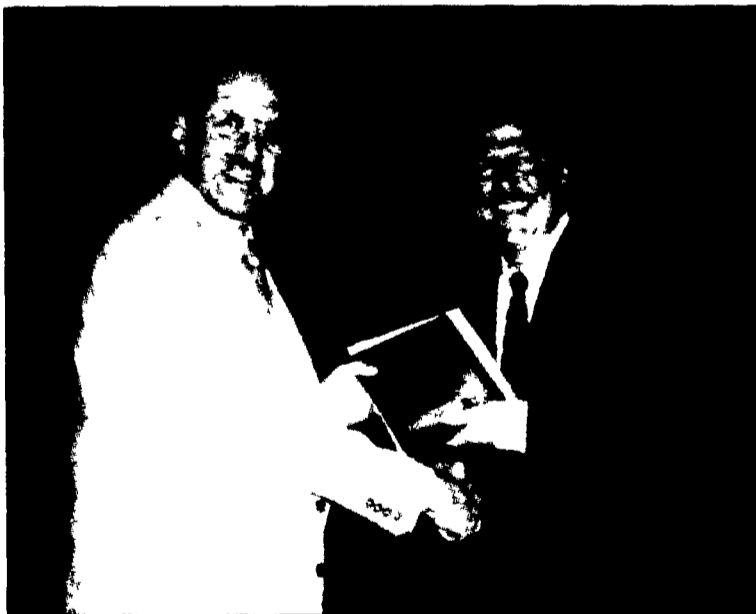
NEW ORLEANS, La. — More than 400 agricultural education professionals from all 50 states attended the 50th annual National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Convention earlier this month. Among the local teachers attending were MeeCee Baker, Greenwood; Christine McCahren, Lampeter; Lehman Metzler, Lancaster; and Gerald Reichard, Chambersburg.

The teachers and state staff gathered for a national meeting that provided teachers with professional development opportunities to strengthen local educational programs. Highlights of the meeting included sessions on partnerships between agricultural educators, agribusiness leaders, and local, state, and national policy makers.

"The exchange of ideas is an important function of the conference," said Duane Fisher, NAAE

president from Mt. Auburn, Iowa. "This meeting provides teachers

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Lehmar Metzler, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Agriculture Teachers, left, accepts the distinguished state association award from Mike Cox, president-elect of the national association.

Special Pages/Advertising/News Deadlines For Holidays, Farm Show Issues

A number of special pages are planned for *Lancaster Farming* in the next few weeks. In addition, the New Year Holiday and our annual Pennsylvania Farm Show issue bring special deadline schedules, too.

In this the Dec. 26 issue, we dedicate a few pages in section A to the introduction of the Pennsylvania Young Farmer Convention to be hosted by the Manheim Chapter in early February. We have registration forms and a review of the program. In addition, messages from the sponsors of this state-wide event are part of the advertising base with these pages.

The issues for the first two weeks in January will have features and advertising messages related to the Keystone Farm Show and the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

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1998 Probably Warmest On Record

ITHACA, N.Y. — With five days left in the year, it appears probable that 1998 will be the Northeast's warmest year since records began in 1895, according to the climatologists at the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University.

Up to now, 1953 was the region's warmest year on record with an average temperature of 49.5 degrees Fahrenheit. So far this year, the Northeast's temperature averages 50.2 degrees, just seven-tenths of a degree above the 1953 mark.

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Dale and Janie Martin with their children Becky, 10; Matthew, 8; and Michael, 6, celebrate the Christmas they thought they would never have together. Read about this dairy farmer's battle with a malignant brain tumor and the new perspective the family shares on page B2. Photo by Lou Ann Good.