

Dr. Larry Hull Is Outstanding Grower Of Year

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leaders an opportunity to meet and socialize directly with members of SHAP and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association; and to provide a forum for the New Jersey Horticultural Society, and the Maryland State Horticultural Society, which also presented an outstanding grower award.

A grower reception sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) and the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association preceded the dinner.

Dr. George Green, a pomologist and researcher at Biglerville in its research and extension center, gave a long introduction to Dr. Hull in announcing him as winner.

According to Green, Hull has been intensely and effectively involved in research and related organizations and efforts, with the result that research projects at Biglerville continue and remain relevant to furthering the understanding of pest relationships to fruit and vegetable plants and production.

Hull, an entomologist with advanced studies in several areas, has received numerous industry awards, such as for work with integrated pest management, and has also served as a mentor in developing doctoral students into contributing researchers.

In accepting the award, Hull said that he was very grateful, and he thanked many — family, staff, peers, former students, and especially growers — for allowing him to conduct research.

He said that growers in Pennsylvania have bent over backwards to accommodate his requests in the name of furthering research. He also said that he thanked his wife and children for their tolerance, because he said he probably has spent more time than necessary in the laboratory.

The award was presented by Jim Lott, of Bonnie Brae Fruit Farms Inc. in Adams County, who is president of SHAP.

Best Bushel Best Stand

On behalf of SHAP, Lott also presented its other two annual awards — one recognizes the best bushel in competition at the Pa. Farm Show, and the other recognizes the best roadside stand exhibit at the Farm Show.

The winner of both awards was Hollabaugh Bros. Inc., of Biglerville. Receiving the award on behalf of the family business was Brad Hollabaugh.

Hollabaugh said he was happy and honored to receive the awards on behalf of Hollabaugh Bros. Inc., and he commented on the help and educational support from SHAP and other growers. He said the business and its employees have benefitted from the support and strengthening competition provided by them.

He said the Pennsylvania Farm Show is a perfect place for the industry to promote itself and make consumers aware of the quality of product produced in Pennsylvania.

He said that while the bushel of apples contest doesn't generate as much attention as some of the other events at the Farm Show, it does get visited by a lot of people and it does have an impact.

He said he hoped that those who have entered in the Farm Show competitions and displays will continue to do so, and that others

join in, so as to make the best possible presentation of the industry to the general public.

Susan Butler, director of the Maryland Horticultural Association, presented the association's recognition award to John Rinehart of Rinehart Orchards Inc., Smithsburg, Md.

Accepting the award on behalf of his father was J.D. Rinehart. Rinehart said was honored to accept the award on behalf of his father, with whom, he said, he has been lucky to work for 13 years. He praised his father's help and guidance in learning about the industry and production.

Don't Hold Back

Prior to the presentation of awards, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Samuel E. Hayes Jr. addressed the audience.

Also, 1999 Pennsylvania Apple Queen Shannon Shelleman was introduced.

In his remarks, Secretary Hayes said that he wanted all of those in attendance to know that "you have a friend in Pennsylvania, in agriculture and in the Food Merchants of Pennsylvania." He especially noted that those from Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey, and other states are always welcome to Pennsylvania.

Because of the amount, diversity and depth of information made available, as well as one of the largest trade shows in the East, the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention draws participants from many states and Canada.

Hayes explained that Pennsylvania producers should take the view that state government is a partner in making their businesses succeed.

He said that the presence of many of the state's top agricultural political leaders at the dinner, especially given the demand this week for their attention by many different interests, was evidence of the fruit and vegetable growers importance to the state's economy and social well-being.

Among others, Hayes specifically mentioned the attendance by state Sen. William Slocum, the new chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; and state Rep. Sheila Miller from Berks County, who is also president of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a long-time agricultural advocate, former executive director of the Senate Ag and Rural Affairs Committee, and who initiated the Pennsylvania Turnpike Roadside Stand program.

Secretary Hayes told the group, "You don't get to be as good as you are if you don't do good work and you don't get help along the way."

He said he understands that today's competitiveness in the marketplace doesn't allow any room for error, and that there are a number of issues, agencies and organizations distracting attention



From the left, Jim Lott, president of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, presents the organization's Outstanding Grower award to Dr. Larry Hull, director of the Penn State University Biglerville Research Station, while Dr. George Green, a researcher at Biglerville, helps with the presentation.

away from doing business.

He said the public-private partnership has been a strength in the industry, and he hopes it continues to do such things as provide for specific research to develop technologies and techniques for ensuring the best and most competitive products.

But, he said, the energy and success-oriented attitudes of the people involved in the fruit and vegetable industry are what makes the difference.

He said, "It's one thing to produce the best in the world, but it's another thing if you don't something to project that."

"We have to be as good as anybody else in business in marketing," he said.

He said that the people who produce a good product must exude excitement about it with as much energy as possible.

"The world wants excitement," he explained. "Agriculture can't afford to keep its light under a bushel basket."

He compared the production and marketing of agricultural products to competitive sports, not only to the discipline and mental preparedness required, but in attracting attention and consumer support, especially in order to boost exports.

The message was this: If a product isn't well-known and in demand at home, it won't likely stand out for attention to a consumer from somewhere else.

"This is no different than competitive sports," Hayes said. "You have to play well at home and away. We must take these wonderful products and tell the world what you have."



From the left, J.D. Rinehart is congratulated by Susan Butler of the Maryland Horticultural Society upon receiving its version of an outstanding producer award.



From the left, Brad Hollabaugh accepts a trophy and plaque on behalf of the family business Hollabaugh Bros. Inc. presented by Jim Lott, president of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania. The awards recognizes the fact that the business exhibited the best bushel of apples at the state Farm Show, and also had the best roadside stand exhibit at the Farm Show.

Beaver County Announces Crops Day

BEAVER (Beaver Co.) — Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will be the featured topic at the 1999 Beaver County Crops Day to be conducted on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Big Knob Grange, New Sewickley Township.

Registration and viewing the exhibit tables is to begin at 8:30 a.m., and the program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. Dennis Calvin, Penn State University field crop entomologist is scheduled to address the topic,

"Development of IPM Program for Local Farms," and provide insight into the hi-tech world of crop insect management.

Dr. Greg Roth, Penn State corn production specialist, is to share the results of the state's 5-Acre Corn Club contest, emphasizing the management techniques of top producers. He will also review the growth and development of a corn plant and how this influences farm management decisions.

The meeting will qualify for 2

credits of core and 2 credits of category for those with a pesticide applicator's license.

The cost of the meeting is \$6 which includes lunch. Please make checks payable to "Extension Special Account" and send payment to: Crops Day '99, Penn State Cooperative Extension, 1000 Third Street, Suite 102, Beaver, PA 15009.

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