

Extension Service

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were featured in some way. She noted the newspaper is "important to many facets of the ag community."

Fourth, Rodgers honored staff who have celebrated 10, 20, and 25 years with the extension service.

Lancaster Extension Director John Schwartz reviewed some of the accomplishments of the Lancaster County extension office from Oct. 1, 1997-Sept. 30, 1998. The service, highlighted in the annual report, distributed 216,138 newsletters and publications in the county. Staff and volunteers gave individual help and assistance to 40,448 people. There were 4,874 meetings with 47,279 people attending.

In addition, 662 volunteers assisted the professional staff in individual programs. Schwartz mentioned that 3,851 4-H members carried out 5,179 projects in the county.

He said he was proud to report that agriculture continues to grow in the county in spite of all the urban pressures. He said that 1997 farm gate receipts increased 1 percent over 1996, "in spite of low prices for milk and eggs," he said. The number of dairy cows, chickens, hogs, and sheep increased in 1997 while acres harvested increased by 14,000 acres.

Current emphasis in agricultural programs of extension are on environmental issues, profitability, food safety, and marketing. Agents have provided leadership and recognition at the national level for the Pork Quality and Environmental Assurance Program and the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program.

Horticultural programs have emphasized new crops and varieties, integrated pest management, and new cultural practices. Other programs have included composting, odor and fly control, succession planning, financial management, and precision agriculture.

For the family living program, educational programs were developed in the areas of parenting, child care, financial management, foods and nutrition, and food safety. One-hundred eighty-seven child care providers attended 11 meetings on child care skills.

Said Schwartz, "Our EFNEP advisers continue to organize supercupboards as a way to reach more adults through group instruction, foods and nutrition, and food purchasing tips. Safe food handling for volunteers has become a very popular program."

He emphasized the emphasis of the impact of food washing.

Participants have come from church groups, fair stands, group homes, fire companies, and other non-profit organizations. Money 2000 has been introduced to help fami-



Lancaster County Extension honored Gail Bubernack, seated, with a special Penn State Alumni Association rocking chair for 25 years of service. Diane Groff, standing, was honored with 20 years of service.



Lisa Blank, dairy ambassador, and Kimberly Becker, dairy darling, hand out ice cream with strawberry topping at the annual meeting.

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