

Wyoming County Couple Achievement Award Winners

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Wyoming County's Peter and Roxanne Dueppengiesser were named winners of the New York Farm Bureau Achievement Award at the state farm organization's annual meeting at The Radisson-Hotel Syracuse in Syracuse, Dec. 7-10.

The Dueppengiessers edge out fellow competition finalists Orange County dairy farmer Adelia Pimm and Lewis County dairy farmer Joseph P. Shultz to win the 25th Achievement Award. The award was presented to the couple during Tuesday evening's opening night session.

According to Peter Dueppengiesser, the Achievement Award competition was "very difficult. Just getting the application done was difficult enough." The competition, he said, "was quite an undertaking. But it was enjoyable to look back at things we've done, and to ponder the challenges to come."

As State Achievement Award Winners, the Dueppengiessers received a \$500 cash award from Dodge Truck and a \$500 cash award from NYFB's YF & R Program. They also received an expense paid trip to the AFBF Annual Convention Jan. 11-14

in Albuquerque, N.M. to represent NYFB at the National Achievement Award Competition.

Dueppengiesser said that while the award will have his and his wife's name on it, "as all things go, it wasn't just two people. I have two brothers who are in business with me, and I would not have been able to do the things I've done without them. My father has been very supportive, as have our employees. Our names are on the award, but we couldn't have done it without them."

The Achievement Award competition is open to young farmers and ranchers (YF & R) between the ages of 18-35 who are actively engaged in farming. Leadership, Farm Bureau involvement, and community participation played key roles in the judging process. The winner was selected solely upon the effectiveness of both their submitted application and personal interviews by a panel of three judges, with demonstrated expertise in Farm Bureau, industry, and finance.

Judging this year's competition were Dan Athoe, vice president of Farm Direct, Agway, Inc.; Patrick Brennan, Bond Act

coordinator for the State Department of Agriculture and markets; and Julie Suarez, legislative director for State Senator John "Randy" Kuhl

The Dueppengiessers have been operating as a family corporation for the past 12 years. Their Wyoming County operation employs 13 full-time workers and one part-time worker to care for 700 head of milkers plus young stock, as well as alfalfa and corn production. The dairy operation is a corporation, with the couple splitting the ownership equally between Peter and his two brothers.

Both are college graduates, with Peter earning an associated degree in animal science for

the State University of New York (SUNY) Cobleskill and a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Cornell University. Roxanne earned a bachelor's degree in consumer economics business management from Cornell.

Both hold leadership positions within Farm Bureau. Peter is the president of the Wyoming County Farm Bureau served on the state Farm Bureau YF & R Committee (1994-1995) and as its chairman (1995-1996), was a member of the Farm Bureau Board of Directors (1995-1996), was a NYFB Discussion Meet Winner (December 1994) and American

Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Discussion Meet Finalist (January 1995). Roxanne served as secretary of the state YF & R Committee from 1994-96.

The couple has two sons, Jacob and Jared.

They are an outstanding couple, "said Sandra Prokop, New York Farm Bureau program specialist. "This year's competition also enjoyed great participation from our county farm bureaus and from Farm Bureau at all levels, not to mention community and commodity affiliations. Plus, the energy they've all put into their preparations show the progress agriculture has made, and the bright future it has."

Ala. Breeder Elected To Simmental Board

BOZEMAN, Mt. - W. Harrell Watts, a member of the American Simmental Association (ASA) board of trustees since 1994, has been elected chairman of the board, succeeding Bill Wentz, Olmito, Texas.

Watts, who previously held the posts of board vice chairman and treasurer, had also served as chairman of the growth & development committee for two years and on the executive committee for three years.

A graduate of Auburn University, Watts owns Simmentals of Alabama at Sardis where he maintains a herd of registered and commercial cows. His operation also includes cotton, timber, and hay production. A strong believer in



W. Harrell Watts

utilizing EPDs in breeding programs, he has utilized artificial

insemination and performance testing for 34 years and endorses the recommendations made by the Focus 2000 Conference.

"Carcass traits are going to be very important to the future of the beef industry," he said. "We must push for retained ownership of cattle in order to obtain the most reliable carcass data possible."

A member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and numerous other cattle organizations, Watts is past president of the Alabama Simmental Association and is a founding member of the organization. He's also a former school board member, church board member, and a director for the county soil and water conservation district.

Clarification

In last week's article about the Spring Poultry Banquet held at the Lancaster Host Resort, it was reported that PennAg Industries is planning to integrate the Pork Council into its organization within the next year. This refers to the creation of a new Pork Council within PennAg Industries, not to taking over the existing Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council, which is a completely separate organization.

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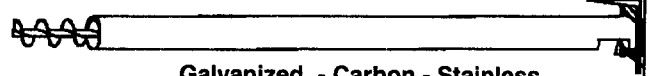
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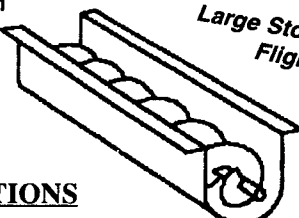


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