

Outstanding Ag In Classroom Teacher Lauded

CAMP HILL (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Committee has presented its 1999 "Outstanding Ag in the Classroom Teacher" Award to Christie Gamber of Hummelstown, a first grade teacher at Lower Dauphin School District in Dauphin County.

Gamber was cited for her superlative use of Ag in the Classroom concepts and materials in helping her students at East Hanover Elementary School better understand agriculture and its importance.

A graduate of last year's Ag in the Classroom workshop, Gamber said her goal during the past school year was to teach her students that agriculture was more than just "plows, sows, and cows." She used a wide range of hands-on activities to help her first-graders understand that, "everything we use, consume and need is somehow tied to agriculture."

The Ag in the Classroom program is a week-long accredited workshop conducted by the Agriculture Awareness Foundation of Pennsylvania. This year's workshop, held July 18-23 at the main campus of The Pennsylvania State University, was attended by more than 90 school teachers, mostly from elementary schools, from around the state. The teachers, through field trips and classroom instruction, learned about the

vast scope of agriculture and agricultural activities in Pennsylvania and how to incorporate information about agriculture in their classroom lesson plans.

Tracie Sturges, a farm wife, mother and chairperson of PFB's Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee (YF&R), presented the award to Gamber during the Ag in the Classroom Sponsor Recognition Banquet held July 22 in State College.

"In order for agriculture to remain a viable industry, it is important for the public to understand the crucial role that it plays in our history, economy and quality of life," said Sturges in announcing the award winner. "This education must begin with today's youth," she said. "That is why the YF&R Committee recognizes elementary school teachers, 'who are doing an outstanding job of educating tomorrow's citizens about this nation's number one industry,' Sturges said.

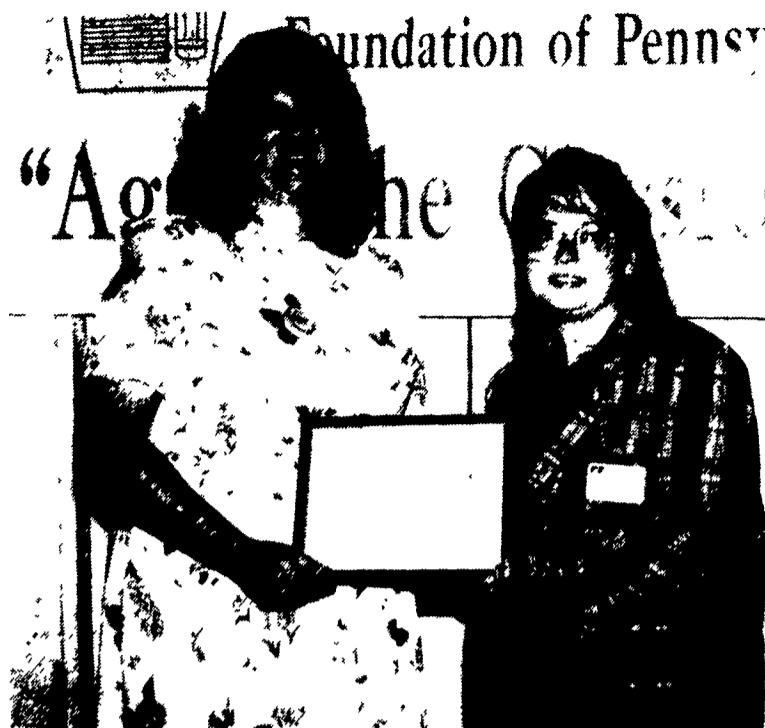
In accepting the award, Gamber said she was overwhelmed at first by the amount of Ag in the Classroom material she received at the workshop and wondered if she would ever be able to use it all.

"The biggest problem was thinking agriculture had to be a separate subject," she told 1999 workshop participants. "It didn't have to be. It works well with everything." Gamber taught her student about agriculture with

lessons on insects, erosion, soil types, composting, farm animals, crops and their by-products, and planting from seeds. "We did something everyday relating to agriculture," she said.

As the grand prize winner, Gamber received \$200 cash and \$350 worth of Ag in the Classroom materials of her choice. A teaching team of Lori Gontis-Holloway and Sheila Ulerich from St. Peter's Elementary School, Somerset, received \$100 cash and \$250 worth of classroom material as the award runners-up. The prize winners were selected by a panel of judges based on the variety of agricultural concepts taught, the extent of integration into other subject matter, use of creative techniques and use of classroom, school and community resources. This marks the fourth year the YF&R Committee has presented the award to an Ag in the Classroom workshop graduate.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, voluntary organization which represents over 27,000 farm and rural families. Its YF&R Committee sponsors



Christie Gamber, left, a first-grade teacher at East Hanover Elementary School, Lower Dauphin School District, recently received the Outstanding Ag in the Classroom Award from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee. Presenting the award is YF&R chairperson Tracie Sturges, right.

sors programs and leadership development opportunities for

young farmers between the ages of 18 and 35.

Home Canning Meats

Have you thought of preserving soups, spaghetti sauce or chicken? Low acid foods like meats require a significantly higher processing temperature to destroy bacterial spores and toxins that can thrive in home canned products.

Penn State Cooperative Extension is offering two workshops featuring the basics on home pressure canning meats and products with meat as an ingredient. Testing of dial gauges will be available.

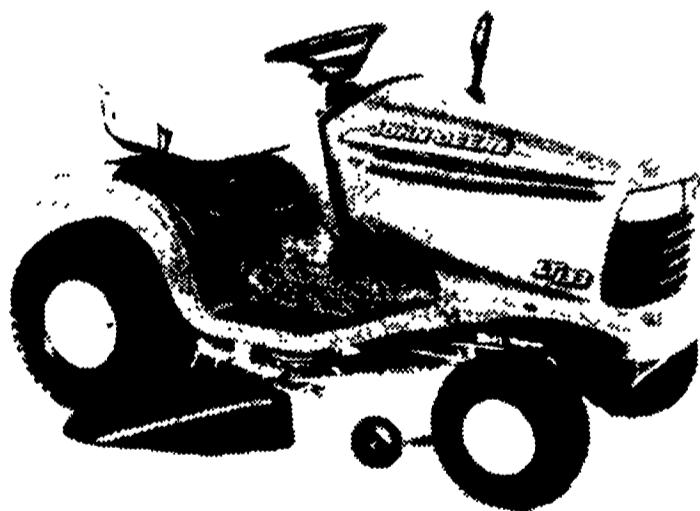
Classes are September 22,

from 10 a.m. - noon or 7 - 9 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster.

Cost is \$3 to cover materials and handouts. Pre-registration is requested. Call Penn State Cooperative Extension at 717-394-6851 for information.

99 John Deere Tractors On The Floor.

99 Days Same As Cash*.



LT133 Lawn Tractor

- 13 hp
- 38-inch cutting width
- 5-speed shift-on-the-go transmission

\$38 PER MONTH*

Your John Deere dealer is passing along 99 days Same-As-Cash* on a full line of lawn and garden equipment. But only from July 6 through October 31, 1999. So hurry, because even if the offer still stands, the tractors keep rolling out of the door every day.

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®



99-5675-S/B

www.deere.com

To Locate A John Deere Dealer Near You Call Toll-Free - (888) 669-7767 (MOW PROS).



*Offer ends October 31, 1999. Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Revolving Plan, for noncommercial use. A 10% down payment required. If the balance is not paid in full by the end of Same-As-Cash promotional period, interest will be assessed from the original date of purchase at 19.8% APR unless you reside in CA (19.2% APR); AL, FL, KS, LA, ME, MA, MN, NE, NC, ND, PA, VT, or WV (18% APR); TX (14% APR, but rate may vary); AR (9.5% APR, but rate may vary) with a \$0.50 per month minimum. Taxes, freight, setup, and delivery charges could increase monthly payment. Larger monthly payment may be required in California. Other special rates and terms may be available, including installment financing and financing for commercial use. Available at participating dealers. Prices and models may vary by dealer.