

Tioga County Native Wins Fair Person Of The Year

JAYNE SEBRIGHT
Lancaster Farming Staff
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Anne Clark from the Tioga County Fair was named fair person of the year last Friday night during the Pennsylvania State Association of County

Fair's Annual Convention. The convention was held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association's Annual Convention.

The Tioga County Fair Board nominated Clark for the prestigious honor. Clark has been

active in both her local fair board and the state association for many years. 2000 marked her 26th year at the Annual Convention.

"I was really surprised and honored to have been chosen as fair person of the year," said Clark. "There are 114 fairs, and anyone from any of those fairs can be nominated."

In 1972, Clark was the first woman to be elected to the state executive board, and she has served on several committees since then. Some of the committees she has served on include convention registration and planning, seminar, roundtable, and PSACF promotion at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

In 1984, she was elected secretary for her county fair board and still holds that position today. While serving on the county board, she helped to increase fair attendance, raise the premiums paid to exhibitors, and increase the size of the Tioga County fairgrounds.

"It's a real honor to think that my own committee thought enough of me to nominate me for this award," said Clark. "But it's just a reflection of the entire fair board. One person doesn't do these things. It takes the entire committee doing things together to make a fair a success."

In addition to serving on her fair board, Clark is also active in her church, serving as youth leader, church pianist, choir director, women's fellowship president, and helping with both bible school and Sunday school. She is also a 4-H leader and serves on the Cooperative Extension executive committee as secretary.

In 1995, Clark was honored by the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions with the prestigious Hardee's American Heritage Award given for her volunteer efforts in the fair industry. She was also honored in 1997 with the state honorary FFA award.

During the convention, the association also awarded winners of the communications competition. Each fair had the opportunity to enter in the following categories — premium book, premium tabloid, non-premium tabloid, promotional materials, website, scrapbook, fair display, and both amateur and professional videotapes.

The Best of Show award went to Westmoreland County Fair. Winners in the premium book category included Cambria County, Elizabethtown, and Butler Farm Show. Westmoreland won the premium tabloid category, with Montour Delong & Hookstown Fair and Elizabethtown Fair taking second and third place.

In the non-premium tabloid category, Oley Valley, West End, and Greene-Dreher-Sterling were all winners. Centre County Grange won the promotional materials category, with

Westmoreland and Elizabethtown taking second and third.

Green-Dreher-Sterling won first place in the website category. Westmoreland and Bedford were awarded second and third place respectively. Scrapbook honors went to Elizabethtown, Spartansburg, and Kimberton. Fair Display prizes were awarded to Jacktown, Oley, and Kimberton.

In the amateur videotape category, Crawford County took first, while Clinton County and Hookstown were awarded second and third place respectively. In the commercial division of the videotapes, Washington County took first, with Fayette County winning second.

1,750 people attended the convention, which was held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center last Thursday through Saturday.



Kevin Houghtaling, President of the Tioga County Fair Board, congratulates Anne Clark for winning the prestigious Fair Person of the Year award at the PSACF state convention last week.

USDA Announces Aid For Dairy Farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The USDA recently announced \$125 million in direct cash payments to dairy farmers hurt by low prices, and \$500,000 to help small farmers and ranchers market and export their products.

"Dairy farmers are being squeezed by market conditions that don't allow them a fair price for their product," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "This assistance is sorely needed to help keep many small- and medium-size dairy producers in business until prices stabilize."

The money is in addition to \$200 million distributed last summer.

The Dairy Market Loss Assistance program provides payments based on an operation's milk production in 1997 or 1998. Eligible dairy farmers who did not participate in the program

last summer must sign up at their local Farm Service Agency offices or USDA Service Centers from Jan. 24 to Feb. 28, 2000.

The USDA also announced it would provide \$500,000 to help small farmers develop new ways to market their products.

Under USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, the University of Vermont, University of Nebraska, University of Georgia, and Utah State University will select and assist new marketing projects such as direct selling to restaurants and institutions, agri-tourism and pick-your-own farms

The USDA will also provide technical assistance to help small farmers and ranchers form cooperatives to export crops and livestock to international markets.

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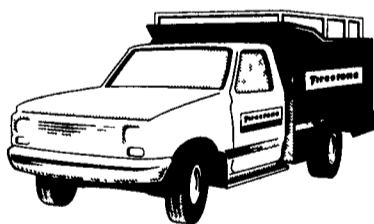
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