

Reviews Important Year In Ag Lancaster County Extension

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LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Farmland preservation increased the same year as 5,280 meetings were conducted in the county, with an attendance approaching about 50,000 people. More than 3,000 4-H'ers carried about 5,000 4-H projects.

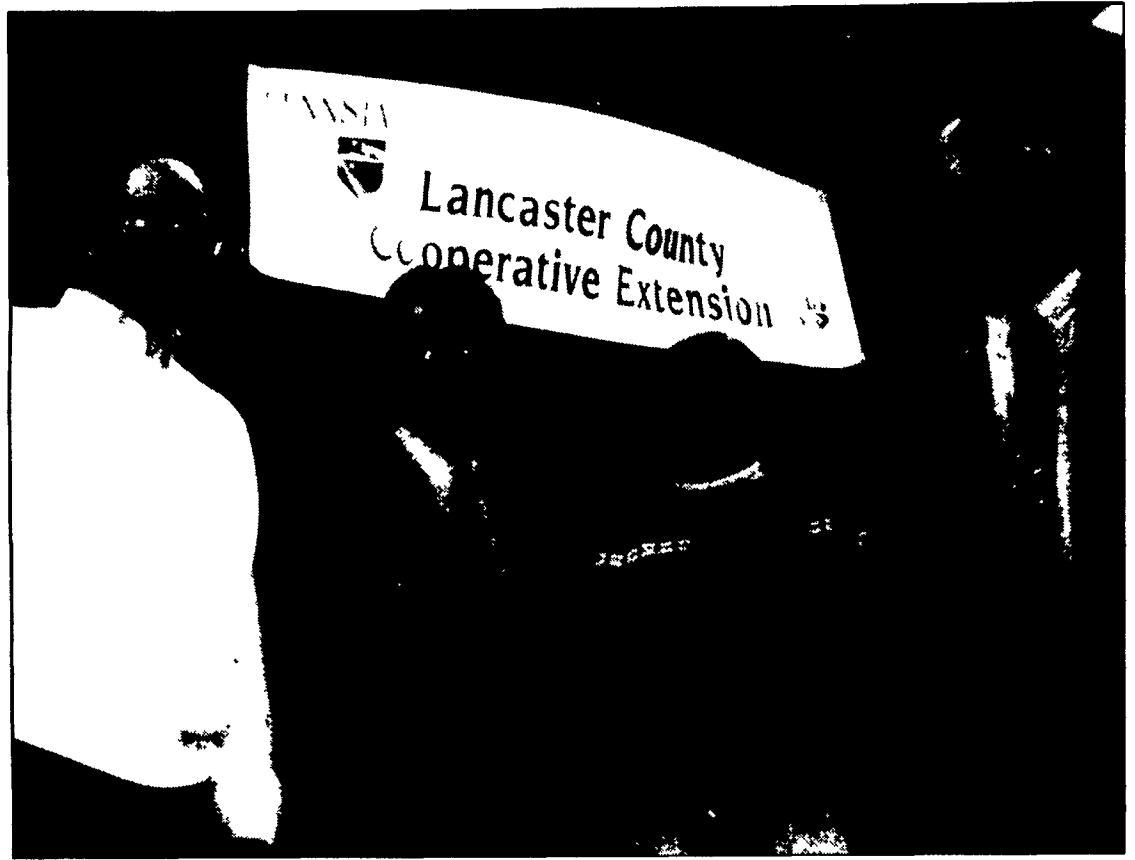
This all took place last year, "a very successful year" for the county extension service, said

John Schwartz, Lancaster County Extension Service director.

Schwartz spoke last week at the 87th meeting of the extension service at the Farm and Home Center.

At least 300 people attended the social and meeting, featuring lots of Lancaster County food commodities served by various representatives.

Schwartz outlined the accom-



New directors elected at the meeting, from left, Wilmer L. Shertzer, Columbia; J. Ray Ranck, Paradise; Dorothy I. Strickler, Quarryville; and Harry E. Hershey Jr., Mount Joy.



Eric Augsburger, 9, Lancaster, waits patiently for an omelet from Ken Fisher. Eggs were donated by Sauder's.

plishments of Lancaster County extension, a "very important year in Lancaster County agriculture," he said.

Schwartz noted that four years ago the county conducted the first of several meetings, asking the question: will Lancaster County be the next Los Angeles? Will farmland be purchased and developed, leaving nothing but strip malls and housing projects?

Fortunately, with help from "people and organizations, the state legislature and the Lancaster county commissioners," said Schwartz, "farms are being preserved." And cooperative extension is "conducting programs to help maintain farming as a viable occupation."

The past year also marked 30

years of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), now 31 years old nationally. The past year the nutri-

tional education advisers "worked with 235 families with 510 children under the age of

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Paul Wolgemuth, left, adds the toppings to omelets supplied by Guy Martin, representing the Lancaster County Poultry Association.



Dairy royalty hand out ice cream sundaes at the Lancaster extension annual meeting. From left, Elisa Ranck, dairy princess; Laura Hess, dairy ambassador; Linda Hess; and Becky Sonnen.



A "toast" to the county's dairy industry was provided by Apryl Becker, dairy miss; Jenna Martin, dairy ambassador; and Angela Becker, dairy darling, at the Lancaster County extension annual meeting.