

## DeCou Receives 2000 Outstanding Fruit Grower Award

CLAYTON, N.J.—Genie DeCou, owner of DeCou Hilltop Orchards near Shiloh, N.J., was recently selected Outstanding Fruit Grower by the New Jersey State Horticultural Society. DeCou operates DeCou Orchards with her son, Tom, and brother-in-law, Rolf DeCou. She was presented the award by Mr. Douglas Zee Jr. at the South Jersey Fruit Meeting and

Trade Show in Glassboro Feb. 16 as part of the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the New Jersey State Horticultural Society.

"DeCou Orchards was purchased in 1965 by Ms. DeCou and her late husband, Lauren DeCou, from a badly deteriorated 250-acre orchard and has grown to a modern 500-acre farm of peaches, apples, nectarines,

blackberries, raspberries, oriental pears, pumpkins and grapes," said Zee. "Genie has been a leader in direct marketing of Jersey Fresh peaches and other produce. Her well-known farm market is being rebuilt to handle a growing farm business."

DeCou is one of the founders of Eastern Pro Pak in Glassboro and its modern peach packing plant and is a director and part of the management team that packs all of the DeCou peaches under the Jersey Fruit label.

"Genie DeCou has always been an innovator and one interested in trying new production techniques, new varieties and fruit types like brambles, wine, and table grapes," said Zee.

## Beekeepers To Meet

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The Capitol Area Beekeepers Association is offering its 13th annual Short Course In Basic Beekeeping, a 2-day short course, May 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center in Dauphin, and May 20 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Milton Hershey Farm Conference Center and Apiary in Hershey.

The course is sponsored by the association in cooperation with the Penn State Cooperative Extension.

The course faculty includes cooperative extension apiculturist Maryann Frazier, Chief State Apiary Inspector Jim Steinhauer, Penn State honey bee researcher Jennifer Finley, regional apiary inspector Tracy Helton, and several experienced and qualified members of the association. Each registered attendee will receive a packet of beginning beekeeping information and other course-related handouts.

Preregistration is requested before May 8. The course fee is \$25 per person.

Participants are encouraged to bring a bee veil and protective suit, if possible. A brown bag lunch is suggested, although fast-food restaurants are located nearby.

For a registration form, location maps, and lodging information, contact Maria Contino, secretary, 6087 Rockland Dr., Harrisburg, PA 17112, or call (717) 657-3932.



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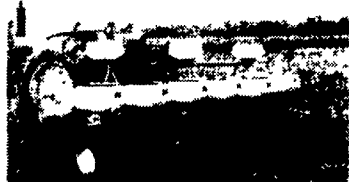
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## Yager Receives First Annual Award

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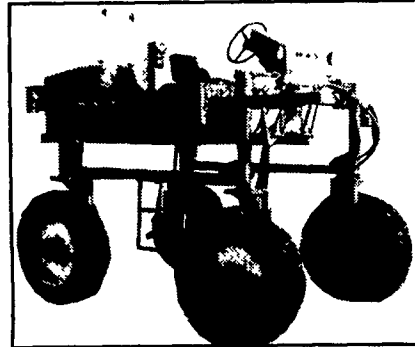
their markets, either on a personal level or through his presentations.

While Yager is widely known for this expertise in direct marketing, he has also helped growers organize wholesale marketing ventures as well. Many of the produce auctions here in Pennsylvania have sought his help in establishing their businesses. He has probably attended more meetings and committees that he cares to remember to listen and give his input on marketing topics. He is helping with the "Simply Delicious" Produce Promotion Program.

Born and raised on a farm in western New York State, Yager did his undergraduate work at Cornell University and graduate work at Penn State. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He was an extension farm management specialist at the university for two years and then served as an extension marketing agent for the seven-county capitol region for the past 36 years. During this time he has taken leaves of absence to serve overseas for Penn State in the Bahamas, Poland, Swaziland, and Armenia. He plans to retire this spring from the Adams County extension.

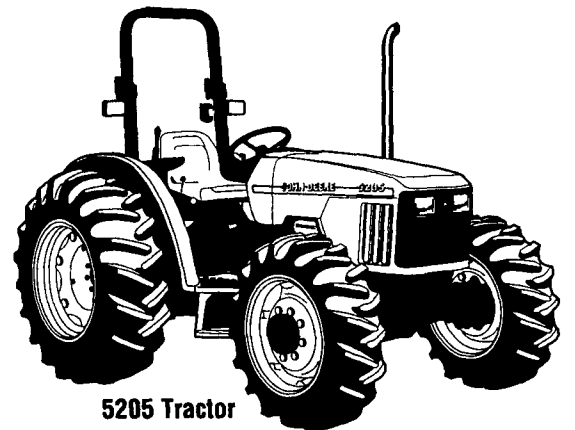
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