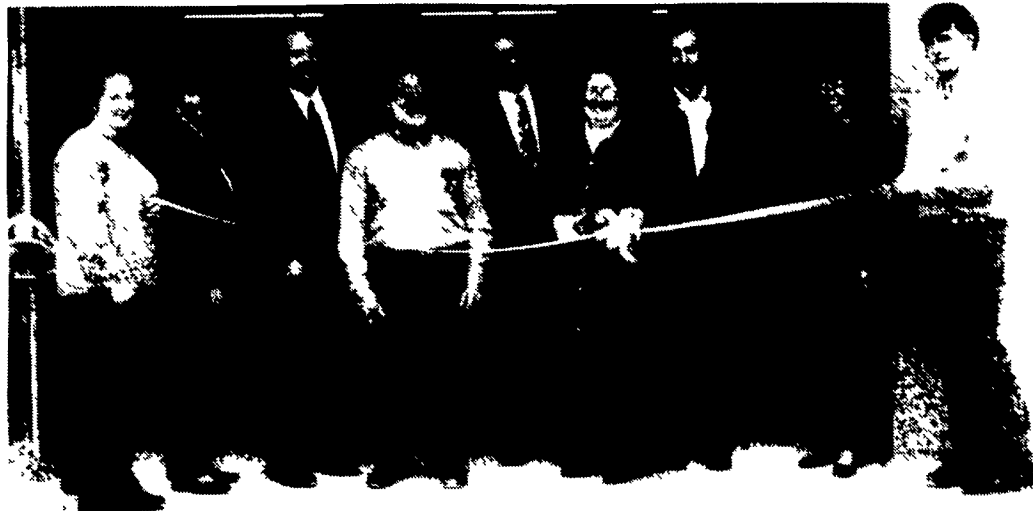


# York 4-H Center Livestock/Exhibition Facility Dedicated



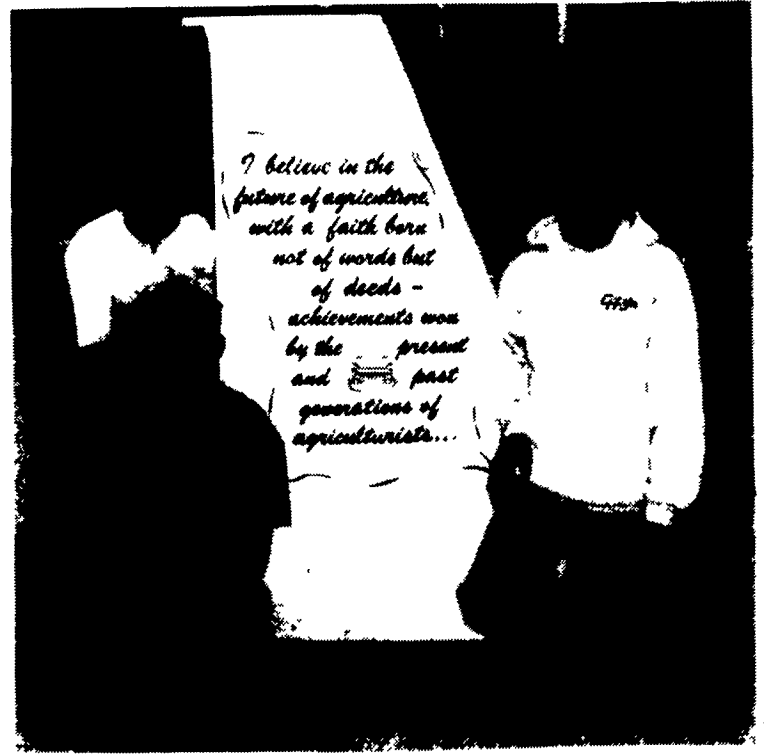
York extension agent Tim Beck, who coordinated the 4-H Center construction project, welcomes a crowd of well-wishers on hand for the ribbon-cutting of the new addition.



Special guests for the 4-H Center's livestock center ribbon cutting ceremony were from left, Rijelle Kraft, 4-H County Council president; Dr. Michelle Rodgers, regional extension director; York extension agent and project coordinator Tim Beck; John Kann, 4-H Center caretaker; Rep. Ron Miller; Marge Runkle, 4-H Center board president; Roxanne Price, York extension director; and Cory Stump, 4-H County Council representative to the Center board.



An attractive, flower-fronted, stone-wall "honor area" pays tribute to the generosity of donors of both labor and funding to construct the York 4-H Center's livestock center.



"I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generation of agriculture..." That quote from the FFA creed, painted on the side of the 4-H Center's auction desk, helps outline the purpose of the new facility dedicated for the use and education of young 4-H'ers such as from left, Chad Menges, Matt Bankert and Cory Thompson.

## JOYCE BUPP

### York Co. Correspondent

BAIR (York Co.) - After some six-plus years in the building, thousands of dollars of fund-raisers and countless hours of volunteer labor, the livestock exhibition facility at the York County 4-H Center is officially opened.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house held April 2 marked the official completion of the 70 x 140 feet, free-span pole building, designed to accommodate a variety of exhibits, livestock shows and sale events.

Among the dignitaries and special guests invited to take part in the official opening were Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chris Herr, Jacobus state legislator Ron Miller-93rd District, and regional agriculture extension director Dr. Michelle Rodgers.

"We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of some of the finest parts of this earth," noted Deputy Secretary Herr in quoting the observation of President Abraham Lincoln, and emphasizing "a critical need to keep (agriculture) extension focused on its rural roots."

He praised the 4-H system, adding with pride that he is a product of the Lancaster County program, and expressing satisfaction in seeing former 4-H'ers "giving back" with donations of their time and dollars to benefit upcoming generations.

Tim Beck, extension agent and coordinator of the 4-H Center expansion project, welcomed a crowd of 4-H'ers and supporters gathered at a stone and brick "honor wall" entrance before the ribbon-cutting for the new facility. The honor wall pays tribute to financial supporters of the Center's addition who contributed at various donor levels. Beck especially praised the 50 to 75 volunteers who gave hundreds of hours and construction expertise through the course of the building project.

Cost of the center is tabbed at more than \$286,000, funded largely by volunteer labor and donations of materials and cash valued at a com-

bined nearly \$210,000. The balance of the funding was generated through \$45,000 in grants and numerous fundraisers, including the very first kiss-a-pig contest won by current state Senator Mike Waugh, Glen Rock.

The long, low design of the livestock facility is capped with an attractive trio of burnished gazebo tops giving it the flair of a classic county fair exhibit area, complete with outside horse-showing ring. Portable penning allows for the setting up inside of up to 90 individual 6 x 3 feet pens, which can be configured in groups of six with arched-gateway fronts for accessibility. Each can easily accommodate several pigs or sheep for shows and sales. A showing area in the middle of the facility, as well as a 25 x 25 feet portable show ring, offer flexibility for the needs of various shows and sales, and four sets of galvanized bleachers provide for spectator seating.

For housing larger livestock, the portable pens can be removed from the building, opening up the facility for up to 125 head of cattle to be tied around the outside. An outdoor, concreted washrack includes a 40 feet long center tie area, accessible for use on both sides. Six outside washracks are also available for swine washing. Additional features of the exhibition include perimeter fencing to contain any "escapees" from shows, a spacious, stoned parking area, restroom facilities, and forced air ventilation system.

The completion of the livestock facility marks the second major construction at the Center's wooded campus near the village of Bair and complements the original auditorium/kitchen/general purpose structure. According to agent Beck, discussions are already under way concerning possible additional housing, especially for dairy animals, and expanded parking space.

Organizations and groups interested in more information on the York County 4-H Center's facilities may contact the York County Agriculture Extension Office at 717-840-7408

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