

# Conservationists Lauded By District

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cropping has been converted to contour strip-cropping on a 40-acre field. An animal waste system installed in 1985 provides six months of storage. Manure is incorporated within 24-hours to minimize potential run off pollution and maximize nutrient crop availability.

The Buchers have stopped using chemical fertilizer on corn ground. They utilize minimum tillage on most of their crop and small grain acreage with some no-till also employed.

### Special Recognition For Conservation

John B. Wengert was honored for his outstanding support of community recreation and conservation. Wengert has donated hundreds of hours of his time to making the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail a reality when not at this demanding job at Wengert's Dairy.

Wengert returned to his Lebanon County roots after learning the ropes of rail-trail development from the National Rail-To-Trails organization in Washington, D.C. Seeing tremendous potential to develop this recreational resource locally, he set about the task of finding quality board members to help him put his expertise to

work. After much hard work to gain nonprofit status, file for grants, conduct feasibility studies and public meetings, prepare plans, fundraise, select engineers and contractors, phase I of the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail is now a reality from Colebrook to the Rt. 72 overpass.

Phases of the trail to the Lancaster County line and city of Lebanon are in the works. John and his capable volunteers succeeded in raising in excess of \$325,000 from local donors. John has also participated in other important initiatives such as Swatara Watershed Association Rivers Conservation Grant planning process and stream bank fencing and buffer planting with the district and DEP.

### Groundwater Guardian Award

The Lebanon County Conservation District was also recognized for its work in groundwater education and conservation. Groundwater Guardian is a program of the Groundwater Foundation of Lincoln, Neb. that supports, recognizes, and connects communities that are protecting their groundwater resources. Groundwater Guardian is not a regulatory program, rather it relies on voluntary steps devel-

oped at the community level to address local groundwater protection priorities.

Lebanon County has been designated as a Groundwater Guardian Community for the past five years for activities conducted by the Lebanon County Groundwater Education Team, under the leadership of Betty Conner public director for the Lebanon County Conservation District. Other members of that team include the Lebanon County Office of Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Lebanon Water Authority, the Myerstown Water Authority, the Lebanon County Planning Department, and the League of Women Voters.

Some of the activities in process include participation in a phase 1 of an eight county surface and groundwater quality, quantity and use study with the Capitol Region Water Board, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; securing funding for best management practices to be implemented on eight dairy farms; and filing for a grant with United States Geologic Survey to test the effects of liming manure on phosphorus mobility.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 mandated that source water assessments must be conducted for all public drinking water system (the raw groundwater or surface water before treatment). Source water protection, however, is voluntary and responsibility rests with the local community or water

system to take steps to prevent pollutants from reaching drinking water sources. Here is where Groundwater Guardian comes in to help communities by raising awareness about groundwater, providing information and resources, by inspiring and helping communities develop solutions, by supporting regional and national networks, and by providing recognition. The ultimate goal is preservation of an adequate supply of clean, safe drinking water for generations to come.

The following individuals were also recognized for their volunteer service with district programs: Connie Hoffer, Genevieve Mehler, Karen and Richard Light, James Logan Jr., Dian Beamesderfer, Pat Ziegler, Sue Miller, Jeanne and Jerry Boltz, Bob Arnold, Charlotte and Leon Gerberich, Carol Holt, Bill Wunderlich, the Quittaphilla Audubon Society, Dairy Queen East, Dutchway Farm Market, Inc., Hershey Foods, Inc., Milton Hershey Schools, Penn State Master gardeners, and the boards of the conservation district and agricultural land

preservation.

Leigh Beamesderfer, forester naturalist, was recognized for her 15 years of service to the Lebanon County Conservation District. Beamesderfer is credited with developing and organizing the county Envirothon at elementary, middle, and high school levels. She is a member of the state Envirothon board.

She has formulated a comprehensive menu of environmental education programs available to all citizens from the conservation district. Recent Ag Camps organized by Beamesderfer providing hands-on experiences for children in agriculture have been sellouts. Her teacher training workshops have helped teachers get excited about environmental education and meet new state requirements.

Beamesderfer has been critical to community forestry initiatives in the city of Lebanon and serves as the coordinator for county gypsy moth spray efforts. Beamesderfer manages the annual seedling sale at the district which has seen tens of thousands of seedlings sold to county landowners.


## Holstein Association Seeks Hall Of Fame Nominations

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Holstein Association is seeking nominations for its Hall of Fame Award. The Hall of Fame Award is presented annually to a member of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association. The award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements and contributions to the Holstein industry as well as activities in other agricultural and community activi-

ties. Applications should be completed and forwarded to Douglas Seipt, 405 Stouts Valley Road, Easton, PA 18042.

More information on the Hall of Fame Award can be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, 839 Benner Pike, State College, PA 16801. Phone: (814) 234-0364 or Fax: (814) 234-1698.


Applications are due by Dec. 15, 2000.



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