

Lehigh County Honors 4-H Members, Leaders

ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — About 200 friends and family gathered recently to honor Lehigh County 4-H volunteers and members for their achievements.

Betty Selig, Trexlertown, received a 4-H clover pin with a diamond chip for 40 years of service as a volunteer club leader with the Trexlertown Merry Stitches 4-H Club.

Six 4-H members were awarded plaques as outstanding 4-H'ers. Outstanding boy and

girl (ages 8-10) were Paul Schappell of Schnecksville, member of the Seeing Eye Puppy 4-H Club, and Lorissa Lazarus of Breinigsville, member of the county sheep and swine clubs and the Country Cabbets 4-H Club.

Outstanding boy (ages 11-14) was Daniel Post, New Tripoli. He's a member of the Lowhill Laurels 4-H Club. The outstanding girl was Rachel Rennie, Center Valley. She's a member of the Southern Lehigh Helping Hands

4-H Club, the Veterinary Science 4-H Club, and County 4-H Teen Council.

Outstanding boy and girl (ages 15-18) were Harvey Emert, IV, Catasauqua, and Erin Lichtenwalner, Coplay. Both are members of the Neffs Cloverettes 4-H Club and County 4-H Teen Council. Erin is also a member of the Veterinary Science 4-H Club and has volunteered as a counselor at residential 4-H camp. Harvey and Erin will represent Lehigh County at the National 4-H Congress in November 2001. This year's delegates to National 4-H Congress — John C. Strawbridge, Whitehall, and Katie Harwick, Kempton — have just returned from Atlanta, Ga., where the event was held immediately following Thanksgiving.

Teen leaders who hold offices, teach projects, volunteer as camp counselors, or who help younger individual members were honored for years of service.

Those who completed one year of service were Jessie Graham, Philip Laube, and Rachel Laube, Coopersburg; Christopher Jameson and Robyn Wirth, Orefield; Amy Lenhart, Jenny Lenhart, Josh Minnich, Karley White, and Stephanie Wolfe, New Tripoli; Kristen Oplinger, Wescosville; Nick Reiss, Allentown; and Nicole Wirth, Emmaus.

Teens completing their second year of leadership were Seth Bleiler and Stacey Mangold, New Tripoli; Erin DiMiceli, Slatington; Jackie Federici, Orefield, Amy Goetz, Fogelsville; Katie Harwick and Suzanne Harwick, Kempton; Adam Rabenold and Tim Rabenold, Allentown; Rachel Rennie, Center Valley; and Nathan Wagner, Coplay.

John C. Strawbridge, Whitehall, and Josh Wagner, New Tripoli, have been teen leaders for three years. Erin Lichtenwalner,

Coplay, and Harvey Emert, IV, Catasauqua, have completed four years of teen leadership.

Other 4-H adult volunteers who received pins for years of

Tom Rabenold, Allentown; Jane Schappell, Schnecksville; Betsey Schmeltzle, Emmaus; and Denise and Raymond Shirk, Allentown.

Outstanding club officers re-



Outstanding 4-H officers Kristen Oplinger, news reporter, Wescosville; Nicole Wirth, president, Emmaus; and Katie Harwick, secretary, Kempton and Seeing Eye puppies accompany Kristen and Nicole.



Outstanding 4-H members, front, Erin Lichtenwalner, Coplay; Lorissa Lazarus, Breinigsville; and Paul Schappell, Schnecksville. Back, Daniel Post, New Tripoli; Harvey Emert, IV, Catasauqua; and Rachel Rennie, Center Valley.

service were Cathy Dassler, Slatington, 15 years; Darlene Brosky, Zionsville, 10 years; and Dennis Haas, Orefield; Kris Rigler, Whitehall; and Kathy Smith, New Tripoli, all five years of service.

Those completing their first year as 4-H leaders were Julianne Anglestein, Bethlehem; Cheryl Bennecoff, Kutztown; Robin Carmody, Trexlertown; Maureen Krasnai, Zionsville; Sharon Mangold, New Tripoli; Kathy McGovern, Emmaus; Donna Nardo, Coopersburg; Robyn Oplinger, Wescosville;

ceived plaques. They were president, Nicole Wirth, Seeing Eye Puppy 4-H Club; secretary, Katie Harwick, Lowhill Laurels 4-H Club; treasurer, Amy Lenhart, Neffs Cloverettes 4-H Club; and news reporter, Kristen Oplinger, Seeing Eye Puppy 4-H Club.

The Laurys Station 4-H Club won \$25 for its outstanding club scrapbook. The Lowhill Laurels 4-H Club and the Lehigh County 4-H Equine Club won \$25 each as outstanding 4-H clubs.

Maximize Milk Checks Without Expanding Dairy Operation

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Dairy farmers can increase their milk checks without expanding their herd. It just takes a little more management and some shopping around, said Tom Noyes, dairy agent at the Wayne County office of Ohio State University Extension.

There is probably an opportunity for some producers to gain at least an additional \$1.50 per hundred pounds of milk produced, Noyes said.

And, with milk prices more than \$1 per hundred pounds lower than normal, maximizing the milk check is more important now than ever, he said. The current All Milk Price — the base price of milk plus additions for butterfat, protein and other solids content — is about \$12.50 per hundredweight. The average All Milk Price received by Ohio dairy farmers over the past 10 years is \$13.76 per hundredweight.

"You can affect what your milk price is through management on the farm and looking at different marketing alternatives," he said. "You could gain \$1 per hundredweight just by altering what you do on your farm."

Improving milk quality by lowering the somatic cell count and controlling other factors could make a noticeable difference. Somatic cells are animal body cells present at low levels in normal milk. High levels of these cells in milk — caused by things such as mastitis infection, udder injuries, stress, poor milking procedures and cow age — indicate

abnormal, reduced-quality milk. Milk with a high somatic cell count has a shorter shelf life, yields less cheese and may have poor flavor, Noyes said.

In Federal Order 33, which includes Ohio, the milk price producers receive is adjusted up or down by how much their milk's somatic cell count is below or above 350,000 cells per milliliter. Milk below 350,000 cells per milliliter gets a premium, while milk above 350,000 is discounted.

"In Federal Order 33, about 53 percent of the milk produced has a somatic cell count between 201,000 and 400,000 cells per milliliter," Noyes said. "That means more than half of the milk produced is discounted or receives only a small bonus. Another 25 percent of the milk has counts worse than 400,000. So there is definitely room for improvement in gaining take home dollars through reducing somatic cell counts."

The premium amounts vary by market and can range from 10 cents per hundredweight to \$1 per hundredweight. Additional bonuses often are paid for producing premium quality milk for consecutive months, he said. All quality programs also are based on milk being free of antibiotics, added water, low sediment and off flavors.

Based on the milk supply, some buyers may offer over order premiums. These are bonuses above the market price for milk within a federal order offered simply to secure milk for a buyer. They are not based on quality. The more competition there is

for milk, the higher these bonuses may be, Noyes said. They often range from zero to 30 cents per hundredweight and vary by month.

Dairy farmers can adjust their production to take advantage of seasonal bonuses. These bonuses often occur in the fall when children are going back to school and demand for milk increases. The problem is, many producers often get their highest milk production in the spring, when grass and hay supplies flourish, but the school year is almost over. So finding ways to increase fall production could be beneficial, he said.

However, with expanding dairy herds, milk production across the United States is becoming more consistent throughout the year. So, seasonal bonuses have diminished and may

not be around much longer, Noyes said.

Bonuses also exist for milk with high levels of protein. Some buyers are paying 10 cents per pound of protein in milk. Having a high protein dairy herd can add significantly to the bottom line, Noyes said.

"You have to shop around for the market that best suits your milk," he said. "And once the buyer who pays the best premium is found, producers have to be willing to change where they ship their milk, so they can get the best price possible. Ohio producers often are loyal and are hesitant to shift buyers. But, the decision should depend on the price."

In the long run, taking advantage of premium prices could really pay off. For a 100-cow Holstein operation producing

20,000-pounds of milk per cow per year, an extra \$1.50 per hundred pounds of milk produced would garner \$30,000 of additional income per year.

By adjusting management practices, producers could probably obtain these bonuses with little or no added production costs, Noyes said. Just make sure barns are well ventilated, stalls are well bedded, the operation is clean, and proper milking techniques are followed.

"There is obviously additional money to be made by producing high quality milk and shopping around to find the market that will be to your advantage," he said.

Noyes shared these ideas with dairy farmers and other participants at the Ohio Dairy Management Conference, Dec. 4 in Columbus.

Glickman Announces New Forestry Council Members

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Ag Secretary Dan Glickman has announced the selection of four members to the USDA National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. There is one new member and three are reappointed. Their term begins Jan. 1, 2001 until Dec. 31, 2003.

The new member appointed to the 15-member council is Elizabeth Kinch, with the Derby Community Foundation, Derby, Kan.

Three members have been reappointed to serve a second

term. They are: John Ball, associate professor of forestry, South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D.; Dan DeWald, natural resources manager, City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services, Bellevue, Wash.; and Deborah Gangloff, executive director, American Forests, Tracy's Landing, Md. Gangloff will continue to serve as the chairwoman of the council.

"The experience these four members bring to the council will enhance USDA's efforts to protect and increase urban tree

cover and heighten the importance of urban and community forestry initiatives throughout the nation," said Glickman.

The council advises the secretary concerning the care and management of trees, forests, and related natural resources in urban and community settings. The council also works with federal and state agencies and other partners to share information, technical assistance, and award competitive cost-share grants that advance the science and practice of urban forestry.