

Ridge Administration Announces 2001 Rural Youth Grant Recipients

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes announced the selection of 24 youth organizations to receive more than \$40,000 in agriculture and rural youth development grants.

"Pennsylvania's youth represent the future of our agriculture industry. By supporting these organizations, we help ensure the proud tradition of Pennsylvania agriculture is passed on to future generations," Hayes said.

The grant program allows agricultural youth organizations to apply for grants to fund educational projects, programs, and seminars. This year's grants will support leadership training, agriculture mentoring programs, forestry, and food-production

- A listing of this year's recipients follows:
- Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives, \$2,500.
- Lawrence County 4-H and Cooperative Extension, Lawrence County, \$2,500.
- Somerset Area FFA, Somerset County, \$2,325. • York County 4-H and Cooperative Extension,
- York County, \$2,500. Greenwood FFA. Perry and Juniata counties \$2,171.
- Allegheny County 4-H and Cooperative Extension, Allegheny County, \$2,500.
- Conrad Weiser FFA, Berks County, \$2,275.
- West Snyder FFA Chapter, Snyder County, \$1,945.
- Indiana County 4-H and Cooperative Extension, Indiana County, \$2,500.
- Westmoreland County 4-H and Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland County, \$2,500.
- Tulpehocken FFA, Berks County, \$1,200.
- Blackhawk FFA, Beaver County, \$1,200.
- Shippensburg FFA, Cumberland and Franklin counties, \$1,200.
- Bradford County 4-H and Cooperative Extension, Bradford County, \$1,200.
- Forbes Road FFA Chapter, Fulton County \$1,200.
- Lawrence County 4-H and Cooperative Extension, Lawrence County, \$1,200. United School District FFA, Indiana County,
- tension, Washington County, \$1,200.
- Washington County 4-H and Cooperative Ex-

- Twin Valley FFA, Berks and Chester counties,
- Manheim FFA, Lancaster County, \$1,200. Wellsboro High School Agriculture Department and Grand Canyon FFA, Tioga County,
- Warfordburg/Southern Fulton FFA, Fulton County, \$1,200.
- Kutztown FFA, Berks County, \$1,200.
- 4-H Clubs, Delaware County Development Fund, Delaware County, \$1,200.

For more information about the agriculture and rural youth development grants, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at (717)

Dauphin County Agriculture And Natural Resources Center Building Open House

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) - Do you have concerns about your environment in Dauphin County? Are you interested in family living topics? Or, would you like to know more about the West Nile Virus?

The agencies who are housed at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Building just north of Dauphin on Route 225 deal with these issues everyday. If these topics are of importance and concern to you, please attend an open house at the center on Sat., March 3 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The snow date is March 11.

The center houses the following agencies: the Dauphin County Conservation District, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and two agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture — the Farm Service Agency, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

These agencies invite the public to come and tour recent additions and renovations to the building, and will be offering presentations and exhibits dealing with a variety of public interest topics.

Toomey Receives Friends Of Farm Bureau Award

ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) On Wednesday, Feb. 21, Congressman Pat Toomey (R-PA) was presented the "Friend of Farm Bureau Award" by the Lehigh County and Northampton/ Monroe County Farm Bureau for his outstanding support of farmers and farm issues.

In accepting the award Toomey stated, "It is an honor to receive the Friend of Farm Bureau Award today. Over the past two years, Lehigh Valley farmers have given me very helpful advice and suggestions regarding agriculture policy. Whether we were fighting for Pennsylvania farmers during the drought of 1999 or working to open up new markets overseas for Lehigh Vallev products — it was a pleasure working with the members of the Farm Bureau.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the Pennsylvania family farmers as Congress seeks to provide our farmers additional opportunities to sell their products both in the USA and across the globe. Additionally, I am excited about fighting to reduce the tax burden that currently harms our family farms by eliminating the death tax, reducing capital gains and creating Farm and Ranch Risk Management (FARRM) Accounts.

Using FARRM Accounts, farmers will be able to save 20 percent of their net farm income in a tax-deferred account to help them weather the ups and downs of each crop year. I will continue to work to keep the family farm a vital part of America."

Verdoorn Named V.P., International And Dairy Proteins, At Land O'Lakes

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. Tom Verdoorn has been named vice president of international and dairy proteins at Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Verdoorn most recently served as vice president of dairy foods finance and administration at Land O'Lakes.

Verdoorn has been involved with the Land O'Lakes International Division at several points during his 20-year career with Twin Cities-based farmer-owned cooperative. The cooperative's international division has reported directly to him since 1999.

Land O'Lakes International sales revenue totals \$40 million. annually split almost equally between export sales and the cooperative's Poland operations. In addition, the cooperative's dairy proteins business generates \$50 million in revenue annually.

Land O'Lakes International Development Division provides development and technical assistance to farmers and cooperative self-help organizations world wide. The division works to actively engage its international partners and clients in developing the means to improve their economic situations.

In his new position, Verdoorn will also have responsibility for Land O'Lakes investment in Advanced Food Products, LLC, the cooperative's new joint venture with Bongrain in aseptic food processing.