

Educator Promotes LEAP

(continued from Page A1)

become certified in agricultural education.

LEAP, which began one year ago, is delivered through North Carolina University, but also has courses by professors from across the nation. The program requires 24 semester hours in specific courses.

At completion of the online

coursework, the person receives a teaching certificate from North Carolina, which is recognized in 49 states (with the exception of Louisiana).

Baker has been involved with agricultural education for 20 years. She earned a bachelor's degree at Penn State, a master's degree at the University of Delaware, and a doctorate at Penn

State.

While enthusiastic about the Greenwood High School Agriculture Program and her students there, Baker is also very enthusiastic about supervising the first individual scheduled to complete the LEAP program, Diane Glock, during her student teaching experience.

Glock, who lives in Mifflintown, Juniata County, found that the LEAP program fitted her needs as a returning adult student. Glock plans to complete the LEAP program this summer and will be poised to accept a position teaching agriculture for the 2002-2003 school year. Glock earned a bachelor's degree in dairy science from Penn State.

Along with Glock, two other Pennsylvania students are enrolled in the LEAP program.

"What is unique about LEAP," Baker said, "is people do not have to resign their jobs to pursue certification. LEAP is adult-friendly and flexible."

Gary Moore, coordinator of graduate programs in agricultural and extension education at N.C. State, was instrumental in developing LEAP, supported by the American Distance Education Consortium and collaboration with the National FFA Organization, the National Association of Agricultural Educators, and several universities.

To apply for the LEAP program, a person must possess a baccalaureate degree in agriculture, natural resources, or a closely related field from an ac-

credited institution in the U.S. with a 2.5 grade point average; submit a detailed essay on why he or she wants to be a teacher of agriculture; and submit three letters of recommendation regarding the applicant's character, work ethic, academic ability,

and suitability to become a teacher.

More information about the LEAP program and its requirements are available online at <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agexed/leap> or by contacting Baker at (717) 527-2050.

Maryland Holstein

(Continued from Page A34)



Maryland Outstanding Junior Holstein Breeders Gus and Lisa Schwartzbeck, center, are flanked by trophy donors Donna and Jason Myers.

got milk?



Outstanding Senior Holstein Breeder Frank Covey, left, with trophy donor Russell Wachter.

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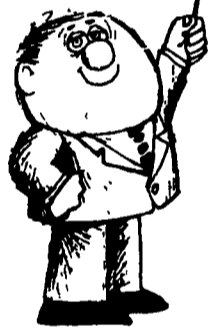


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Environmental Stewardship

(continued from Page A1)

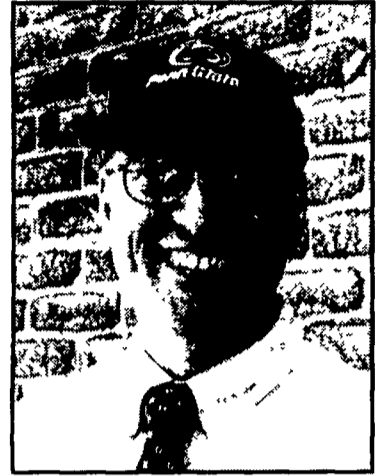
pleted, as assessors who work for America's Clean Water Program check the farm. This aspect of the program is wrapping up a 30-farm pilot phase in Berks, Chester, and Lancaster counties.

The fourth aspect, which is still under development, is continuing the participant's education. Online information may be one way to recertify PEACCE members, said Kephart.

One of the strengths of the PEACCE program is its thoroughness, he said. "With this program, you have a lot of people on the farm making sure things are done the way they should," he said.

Consequently "if you are ever called into court, this is a way that you can say, 'this is what we've done,'" he said.

At the end of the meeting, Gregory Martin, capitol region poultry specialist, reminded the audience about the drought problems of the region. "It only takes a day's water loss to cause



Ken Kephart, professor of animal science at Penn State, spoke about the PEACCE program during a poultry seminar this week.

economic loss to your farm," he said. "Make sure you have an adequate supply or at least the ability to bring water in."

An outside spigot that can take water in to the home or barn may be a great help this season, according to Martin.

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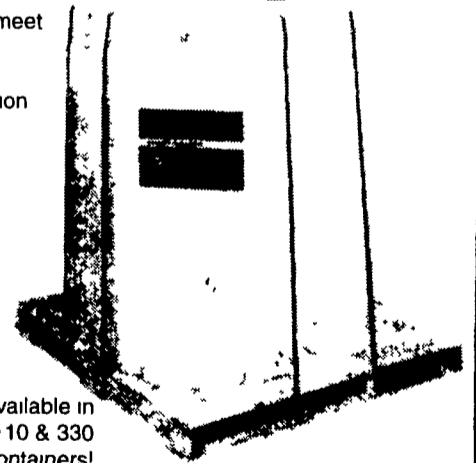


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