

4-H HAPPENINGS

Susquehanna County 4-H Jackson Pin Thimblers

The Jackson Pin Thimblers 4-H Club in Susquehanna County conducted their reorganizational meeting April 4. New officers were elected: President Chelsea Smith; Vice President Nicole Tarbox; Secretary and News Reporter Cassandra Summers; Treasurer Katie Klim; and Game Leader Carissa Carpenter.

Leaders Rhaylene Britten and Evelyn Gerchman will conduct the sewing workshop for beginner and intermediate 4-H members on April 20 at the County Office Building from 9 a.m. to noon.

The club will be selling candy as a fund raiser. The candy will include Starburst, Jolly Ranchers, Skittles, and candy bars. Enrollment forms were handed out. They are due to the Extension office by May 1.

Delaware County Extension Annual Meeting April 26

All interested residents of Delaware County are invited to the Delaware County Cooperative Extension Association, Inc. annual meeting and dinner April 26, 6 p.m., at the Redwood Community Playhouse, Upland, Delaware County.

The annual meeting and A Celebration of 100 Years of 4-H will follow a buffet dinner with chicken or vegetarian entree.

The meeting and program (beginning at 7:30 p.m.) are free of charge and open to the public. Call the office at (610) 690-2655 for more information.

Past members of 4-H, whether from Delaware County or not, are invited to attend this celebration and share their memories. Written memories will be printed and displays are being created.

Cumberland County 4-H Meet At Nursing Home

The Cumberland County 4-H Seeing Eye Puppy Club met March 20 at the Cumberland County Nursing Home. Glenda Farner-Strasbaugh talked about the youth conversation at Penn State and the many opportunities 4-H provides.

The 4-H pledge and pledge to the flag was led by Jackie Gingrich. There were seven visitors, five of which want to become future puppy raisers. Roll call determined seven dogs present and a total of 21 people.

A trip to the Newville Library was finalized for April 13. An outing to Renfrew in Waynesboro has been set for May 5, leaving Claremont Nursing Home at 1 p.m. and returning approximately at 4:30 p.m. A picnic spring meeting was scheduled at the home of Pat Putz on May 19.

Lehigh County 4-H Clubs Celebrate 4-H Centennial

Lehigh County 4-H clubs and 4-H alumni have planned a Centennial Party to take place Saturday, April 27, from 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at the Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield. Between 200 and 300 people are expected at the event.

Alumni have been asked to bring memorabilia from their 4-H club days stretching back as far as the 1930s. Displays will include photographs, project books, awards, scrapbooks, and even some projects themselves. One alumna is bringing her 4-H uniform from the first half of the century. Today there is no specific uniform. Another alumna is bringing the outfit she sewed that she wore in the state fashion revue contest.

Current clubs will have displays and scrapbooks on view so alumni can see how 4-H clubs have changed over the years.

A Commemorative Book filled with photographs of 4-H in past decades will be available for \$5 at the event. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the county 4-H endowment. Books may also be purchased directly from the Lehigh County Extension office, 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown, PA 18104. They are \$5 if picked up at the office or \$7 if mailed. Checks should be made payable to the 4-H Development Fund of Lehigh County.

Right Grass Seed Needed For Drought-Damaged Lawns

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Due to the ongoing near-drought conditions, many homeowners may need to rejuvenate their lawns. If you want to do some springtime seeding, a turfgrass specialist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences offers some suggestions.

"The seed to use depends on whether you want to repair damaged areas or put in a new lawn," says Peter Landschoot, associate professor of turfgrass science.

To seed dead patches or thicken your lawn, Landschoot suggests using perennial ryegrass. "Perennial ryegrass germinates and establishes quickly, and can accept light traffic within eight to

10 weeks," he says. "Perennial ryegrass is a dark green, fine-textured species that's very compatible with Kentucky bluegrass. Chances are you already have some in your lawn.

"Unlike Kentucky bluegrass, which takes two weeks to germinate and a few months to establish, perennial ryegrass should mature before the hot, dry summer months, when new seedlings are susceptible to drought."

Homeowners who have a large spreading tree under which the lawn has thinned out may need to reseed with specialty grasses.

"Heavy shade and grass don't go together," Landschoot says. "But if the site receives more than three hours of direct sunlight daily, you probably can establish a fine fescue. Creeping

red or Chewing's fescue are all shade-tolerant and do well provided you have well-drained soils."

For best results, plant heavily shaded areas in spring before trees leaf up. Till and rake the soil as if starting a new lawn. "The grass needs time to establish before the trees leaf up and make shade in the summer," he says.

Since most yards are not completely sunny or completely shaded, Landschoot suggests using a mix of species for new lawns. "A diverse seed mix ensures that your lawn will thrive under different conditions," he says.

Sun (with some shade). For a sunny lawn with some trees, Landschoot suggests a mix of 40 to 60 percent Kentucky bluegrass, 30 to 40 percent fine fescues and 10 to 20 percent perennial ryegrass. "The Kentucky bluegrass and ryegrass will predominate in the sunny areas and the fine fescues do well in the shade," he says.

Another good choice for a sunny lawn is tall fescue, a drought-tolerant, low-maintenance species. "Buy a good quality, 'turf type' tall fescue from a reputable dealer," he says. "Stay away from the variety Kentucky 31. Most people are dissatisfied with its large, coarse clumps.

"During a drought, tall fescue will be the only green grass in the lawn," he adds. "But plant tall fescue alone unless you want a lawn with a patchy appearance. Its light-green color and coarse texture don't blend well with the finer turf grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass and fine fescue."

Shade (with some sun). For a shaded lawn with some sunny areas, Landschoot suggests a mix of 50 to 60 percent fine fescues, 30 to 40 percent Kentucky bluegrass and 10 to 20 percent perennial ryegrass.

"Don't rely on brand names, or choose a seed because the bag says it's a sun or shade mix," he says. "Read the label to find out the grass species included, the percentage of each seed and the date of the germination test. For best results, the test date should be within nine months of purchase. The germination percentage should be at least 80 percent — preferably higher.

"A lot of companies market something called Penn State Mix," he adds. "Penn State has absolutely nothing to do with these companies, the makeup of the mix or the seed. These mixes can contain just about anything — sometimes you'll find it's a good mix, but sometimes it's very poor quality."

Because new lawns are a lot of trouble and expense, Landschoot recommends that you don't scrimp on seed. "Do your homework," he says.

For information on preparing a new lawn, see the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences publications, "Turfgrass Seed and Seed Mixtures" and "Turfgrass Establishment." Single copies are available free of charge from your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office.

Delaware County 4-H Free Spring Fair

Delaware County 4-H invites everyone to the free Spring Fair and Open House on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine. The fair is conducted at the 4-H Farm and Educational Center on the grounds of the Garrett Williamson Foundation, 395 Bishop Hollow Rd., Newtown Square. Visitors can see and touch the sheep, pigs, cattle, and poultry being raised by 4-H members. Members will have educational exhibits about the 4-H clubs and the projects they have completed during the past year. At 11 a.m., 4-H members will give presentations about their projects. Horsemanship members will be raising money by offering pony rides. Teen Council will earn money by providing hay rides to interested visitors. Bake sale items, snack bar and the farm gift shop will be available throughout the event.

The year 2002 is the 100th anniversary of 4-H in the U.S. In Pennsylvania, 4-H programs are in all counties under the supervision of Penn State Cooperative Extension. The 4-H programs provide youth development opportunities to children eight to 18 years. In the early years of 4-H, programs were targeted to farm families. In recent years, Cooperative Extension has served urban, suburban and rural youth with programs ranging from rocketry to animal care; gardening to resident camp; archery to nutrition; and horsemanship to sewing. Programs are offered through clubs operated by adult volunteers, through schools in classrooms and after school programs, through day and resident camp coordinated by 4-H staff. If you are interested in learning more about 4-H programs, come to the fair or call the office at (610) 690-2655.

North Mountain 4-H Market Goat Club

At the first meeting of the North Mountain Market 4-H Goat Club at the Dresch Farm, new officers were selected. They are Travis Dresch, president; Alex Werner, vice president; Katie Eckert, treasurer; Kate Gerber, news reporter; Chris Werner, secretary. Members of the club picked out their goats. Members signed up for a demonstration such as hoof trimming, castrating, etc., and club notebooks were distributed over rules and regulations for the club.

March 10 at the Dresch Farm, the first presentation was done by Leon and Jesse Stump on hoof trimming. Jesse reviewed on how someone should go about trimming hooves. For example, keeping the trimmer straight and not cutting so far that you would make blood.

At the meeting, March 24, there was a demonstration by Brad Bachman, and Ryan Stouffer on how to castrate a goat. After the demonstration, members of the club got to castrate their goats. Ellen Hanson handed out a brochure on the Goat Field Day at Manheim conducted by Dr. Herr. Ellen also handed out a paper to all the club members on demonstrations.

At the April 7 meeting at the Dresch Farm, there was a demonstration given by Jordan Fischer on how to worm your goat. Then, Ellen Hanson and Doug went over what to look for if your goat would get worms. Ellen also discussed the activities at the Goat Field Day. Different members of the club told a little bit about what they learned.

For community service, the club might go down to a nursing home in Myerstown to make ice cream, or put

on a little goat show for the elderly. Another deed of community service is also planting trees at the Dresch Farm.



NOTICE: FARM OWNERS

Goodville Mutual Is One of the Top 5 Farm Insurance Companies in Pennsylvania

WANT TO KNOW WHY?



Liz Martin
Martin Insurance Agency

459 C N. George St.
Millersville, PA 17551
(717) 872-7756
Toll Free
1-877-791-5235

www.martininsurance.com
Affordable insurance for farm, home, vehicle, and small business

Agent for Goodville Mutual



See Us At The Senior Expo, Ephrata Rec Center May 22

CALL THE SPOUTING SPECIALISTS

For

- 5", 6" & 7" Seamless Gutters in 32 Colors
- Half Round Gutters
- Gutter Protec™
- Windows & Doors • Tubular Skylights

SENSEIG'S SPOUTING

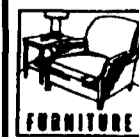
Call Today For A Free Estimate

265 E. Meadow Valley Rd., Lititz, PA 17543
717-733-7160 - 1-800-247-2107 - 717-627-6886

Financing Available



Room Additions, Sun Rooms, Decks, Garages, Etc.



CLOSED SUNDAYS, NEW YEAR, EASTER MONDAY, ASCENSION DAY, WHIT MONDAY, OCT. 11, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS & DECEMBER 26TH

FISHER'S FURNITURE, INC.

NEW AND USED FURNITURE
USED COAL & WOOD HEATERS
COUNTRY FURNITURE & ANTIQUES

BUS. HRS. MON.-THURS. 8-5
FRI. 8-8, SAT. 8-12
BOX 57
1129 GEORGETOWN RD.
BART, PA 17503