

Eastern Region FFA Members Qualify For State CDE Competition

NEWMANSTOWN (Lebanon Co.) — The Eastern Region FFA Leadership Career Development Events (CDE) were conducted, Friday, April 19 at the Millcreek Lutheran Church in Newmans-town.

The top two teams in Parliamentary Procedure and the top three speakers in each of five speaking events qualify for state competition at Penn State University in June.

Results are as follows:

Senior prepared public speaking CDE: 1. Margeaux Firestine, Conrad Weiser; 2. Joel Krall, Cedar Crest. 3. Megan Ginder, Conrad Weiser.

Chairman of CDE was Ron Althoff, Solanco ag teacher, and judges were Douglas Hershberger, Nevin Mast, and Peter Hickman.

Extemporaneous public speaking: 1. Andrew Herr, Penn Manor. 2. Jon Henson, Garden Spot. 3. Danaan Stoltzfus, Twin Valley.

Chairman of the extemporaneous public speaking event was Stephen Miller, teacher at Conrad Weiser, and judges were George Landis, Glenn Wenger, and Gerald Phillips.

Conservation public speaking

CDE: 1. Brandon Stolz, Conrad Weiser. 2. Ashley Richards, Conrad Weiser. 3. Beth Kreider, Cedar Crest.

Chairman of this event was Barry Kellner, ag teacher at Tulpehocken, and judges were Dr. Phil Oglione, Dr. Al Cunningham, and Tim Emenheiser.

Junior prepared public speaking CDE: 1. Janelle Zimmerman, Cedar Crest. 2. Hilary Peterson, Conrad Weiser. 3. Mirida Reynolds, Twin Valley.

Chairman of this event was Ron Frederick, ag teacher at Twin Valley, and judges were Deanna Shindel, Melissa Landis, and Patricia Dodd.

Creed speaking CDE: 1. Elizabeth Sperry, Conrad Weiser. 2. Kathy Zimmerman, Ephrata. 3. Chris Hofmann, Conrad Weiser.

Chairman of this event was Ernie Orr, ag teacher at Ephrata, and judges were Debbie Stanley, Russell Wolfe Jr., and Jen Eshleman.

Parliamentary procedure CDE: First place team: Northern Lebanon; members are: Zach Holbrook, Jennie Maulfair, Amber Adam, Nick Wanyo, Michelle Campbell, Kalene Arnold, Matt Blauch, and Becky Moyer.

Second place team: Cedar Crest; members are: Kyle Seyfert, Jeremy Balsbaugh, Tara Miller, Janelle Zimmerman, Becky Eisenhauer, Kevin Kreider, Heather Balsbaugh, and Mark Balmer.

Third place team: Garden Spot; members are: Ashley Miller, Natalie Messner, Sarah Nolt, Daniel Fox, Nathan Martin, DJ Rhodes, Justine Adams, and Jen Hughes.

Chairman of parliamentary procedure CDE was Harold Berkheiser, ag teacher at Cedar Crest, and judges were J. Ray Bickel and Boyd Robinson.

Fruit Trees Are Best Planted In Early Spring

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Many landscapers say fruit trees can be planted any time in the spring or fall, but a fruit specialist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences says fruit trees are best planted in early spring to be productive.

"Dormant fruit trees can be planted in the spring as soon as the ground is soft," says Robert Crassweller, professor of tree fruit. "Fruit trees can be planted any time in the spring, but the longer you wait, the longer it will take for them to grow."

Crassweller says planting fruit trees is relatively simple, if homeowners follow a few easy steps.

Tree handling. When plants arrive, check them thoroughly for damage. Report any damage or signs of poor handling to the nursery. If the tree is not to be planted immediately, store the tree in a cold area with roots covered in moist soil, sawdust or sand. "Never allow fruit tree roots to dry out," Crassweller says.

Allow trees to soak. Crassweller recommends placing fruit trees in water on the day before planting. "Allow the trees to absorb water for a minimum of four hours," Crassweller says.

Dig an adequate hole. The hole should be wide enough to take in the tree's root system without bending or bunching the roots. Dig the hole deep enough to keep the bud union two to three inches above the ground when the soil settles. "Grafted or budded trees always should be planted so the union is above the soil line," Crassweller adds.

Check the roots. "Check which side of the root mass has the most roots," explains Crassweller. "Set the tree so that the part of the root system with the most roots is pointed into the direction where prevailing winds originate to ensure stability."

Filling the hole. "Add four to six inches of soil while jiggling the tree up and down," Crassweller says. "The jiggling eliminates air pockets and surrounds all the roots with soil."

Next, fill the hole to within three or four inches of the ground line. Tamp the soil firmly and add remaining fill soil up to the ground line.

Water. Apply five gallons of water to each tree planted. "All roots and soil must be wetted," Crassweller says.

Fertilize. If you have not tested your soil, apply 1/2 (one-half)

pound of 10-10-10 fertilizer per tree. This formula suits all fruit trees except pear trees. Crassweller explains that all pear trees should be fertilized with 1/4 (one-quarter) pound of 10-10-10 fertilizer. "Sprinkle the fertilizer in a 12-inch-wide band," Crassweller says. "Keep the fertilizer at least six inches away from the trunk."

Add a tree guard. Crassweller recommends using a 15-inch by 18-inch length of 3/8-inch hardware cloth. Using the 18-inch dimension as the circumference of the guard, bury the bottom one to two inches into soil or finely crushed stone to reduce weeds and prevent rodent damage.

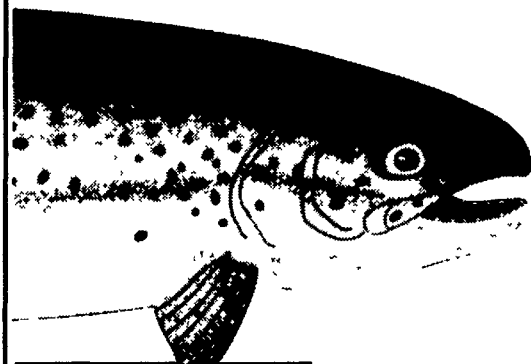
Bare root trees. If there is no soil on the roots, consumers must remember that about one-quarter of the system was removed when the tree was dug out. "To compensate for missing roots, trim about one-quarter of the plant top," Crassweller explains. "Balled and burlapped trees do not need as much pruning; just remove any broken or low branches."

Watering. Homeowners should begin watering in late June, depending on rainfall. If less than five inches of rain has fallen since planting, apply five gallons of water around the base of each tree. "You may want to hoe a slight ridge of soil around each tree to prevent water runoff," Crassweller says.

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LOST STREAM MAP

The STREAM MAP OF PENNSYLVANIA was completed in 1965 after a thirty-year effort by Howard Higbee, a former Penn State Professor.

The map is known as the LOST STREAM MAP to some anglers.

Professor Higbee succeeded in creating a map of the highest detail possible...a map that shows every stream and lake. He painstakingly plotted by hand the location of 45,000 miles of streams onto a 3 by 5 foot map

The map sold extremely well—until it was lost several years later. Incidentally, the printer entrusted with the original drawing and printing plates declared bankruptcy, then carelessly hauled Higbee's 30 years of work to a landfill.

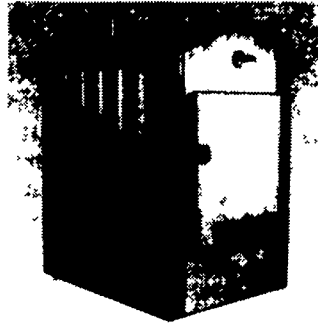
The few remaining dog-eared copies became a prized fisherman's possession. Professor Higbee was offered \$400 for one of his last maps. And state agencies were forced to keep their copies under lock and key.

Experts told Professor Higbee that reprints were impossible, because the maps were printed in non-photographic blue.

Then, in 1991, at the age of 91, Howard Higbee's dream came true. Computers made it possible to reprint the map. Howard said, "I never thought I'd live to see this day."

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