



Carbon County 4-H Livestock Club officers accompany Bev Kershner, Carbon County Fair ag committee representative as Ron Fritz, Carbon Builders Association president presents donation to fair for 4-H premiums. From left, Justin Cunfer, president; Ashley Barry, secretary-treasurer, Bev Kershner; Ron Fritz; Josh Kemmerer, vice president; and Christi Graver, news reporter.

Carbon Countians Work Together For Successful Fair

LEHIGHTON (Carbon Co.) — Three years ago the Lions and Lioness Clubs of Carbon County and West Penn Township, Schuylkill County undertook the huge task of coming together to establish a Carbon County Fair, something that was missing in the county since 1993.

The five-day 2000 fair was a huge success drawing a crowd in excess of 10,000. Being their first year of the required three-year probation period, however, meant no state funding to cover costs and premiums. Seeing an opportunity to show their support of the new fair association and the youth of the county 4-H program, the Carbon Builders Association donated \$2,500 to be used for 4-H premiums.

The success of the fair's debut year along with seeing the interest shown by the public not only in an increased attendance but also by the number of 4-H and open exhibits prompted the Builders' Association

to increase their donation to \$3,000 for 2001 which was earmarked to be strictly applied to the payment of 4-H premiums.

The 2001 fair saw attendance of 38,000 with 90 4-H exhibitors entering 598 4-H exhibits with 4-H premiums of \$3,226. The open competition saw 465 exhibitors enter 1,815 entries with premiums totaling over \$7,200.

At a recent dinner meeting of the Builders' Association, President Ron Fritz presented fair ag committee representative Bev Kershner with their donation of \$3,000 for the 2002 4-H premiums. Also present for the evening were the officers of the Carbon County 4-H Livestock Club; Justin Cunfer, president; Josh Kemmerer, vice president; Ashley Barry, secretary-treasurer; and Christi Graver, news reporter. The officers of the 4-H Livestock Club were selected to represent all the 4-H members of the county.

Because of the public exposure the 4-H Livestock Club has received in the past two years at the county fair the membership of their club has increased tremendously. By conducting the 4-H round-up during the fair the public has been able to see how active the 4-H clubs are in Carbon County. The livestock club in particular has received favorable publicity and support from the public, local government officials and area businesses that participate in the 4-H livestock sale for which the members are very grateful.

Lester Wentz, owner of Walck's Restaurant, site of the dinner meeting, has also been a strong supporter of the 4-H program in Carbon County. Wentz announced that he along with the Builders Association will be displaying a large banner showing their support of the 4-H program. This banner is visible along busy Route 248, a major thoroughfare in the area and will remain on display until after this year's fair which is scheduled for Aug. 7 through Aug. 11. This being the 100th anniversary of 4-H makes it even more appropriate to display their support for all to see.

Wentz along with Builders Association member Guy Barry said they feel 4-H members, particularly those involved with livestock projects, have good work ethics and are the responsible type individuals employers prefer to hire as employees.

Showcasing their talents and projects at the fair has promoted 4-H while the support received from the Builders Association and area businesses has helped to promote their businesses as well.

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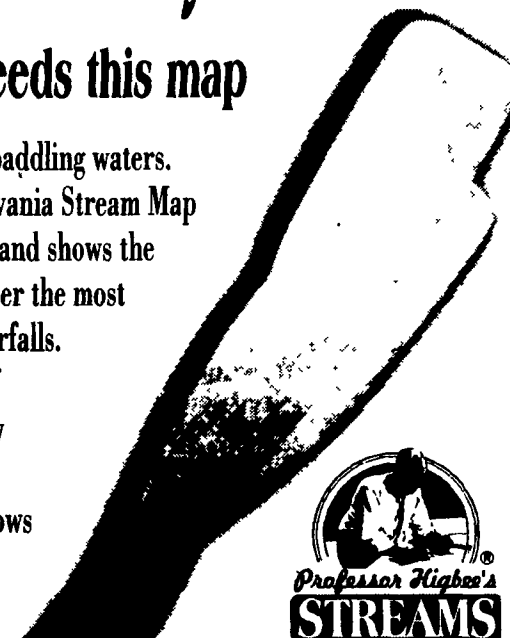
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