

# Farm Women Meet For Business, Friendship, Fun, Entertainment



For three years, Catherine Schott, right, led the Society of Farm Women with more than 2,000 members. With her from left are Ann Diller, treasurer; Barbara Mock, secretary; and Becky Swallow, first vice president.



Newly installed officers, from left, state directors Betsy Sattsazahn, Mary Jane Diehl, and Betty Wert; Becky Swallow, president; Sharon Engle, 1st vice president; and Lorraine Royer, 2nd vice president.



Catherine Schott and her husband Leonard express gratefulness for the care Farm Women have extended as Catherine undergoes cancer treatment.



President of the Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania Catherine Schott is most often known at Lebanon County Expo Center as the "Queen Bee of the Kitchen." Make no mistake — she is also a ruler and she brought this gravel to prove it.



"I'm alive because America cared," said Hildegard Sollenberger, who gave a moving account of growing up in worn-torn Poland during World War II, her years as a refugee, and her subsequent move to America.



Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes said that agriculture would not be the same without farm women, who are equal working partners and who bring harmony, peace, and love into homes. President Catherine Schott responded by saying that agriculture would not be the same without Hayes.

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**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — Sure, only women are members of the Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania. But that didn't stop Elvis Presley and Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes from appearing at the Society's 84th annual convention on Monday at the Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg.

The convention mixed fun, entertainment, and business during the day-long session attended by about 200 of the state society's 2,181 members.

President Catherine Schott from Lebanon County stressed the theme "friends" by interspersing many quotes about the value of friendships forged through Farm Women membership.

County presidents recapped the past year by reporting activities. Much time and energy is spent raising thousands of dollars to help individuals and communities. Some of the ways they raised money was by holding bake sales, suppers, Bingo games, operating food stands at fairs and other events, and selling crafts and other items. Members volunteer at local hospitals, food banks, soup kitchens, and other service facilities. They pick up garbage along roadsides and provide teddy bears, blankets, and more to abused children.

The state society's most outstanding fundraiser is a cookbook with sales of 25,000 books, now in its 13th printing. The profits provide monies for scholarships. This year, scholarship recipients are Karen Lyn Grubb, Berks; Emily Grove, Emme Mellott, and Barbara Reichard from Franklin County; Derick Bollinger, Jessica Latham, and Kevin Pfautz from Lancaster County; Holly Binkley, Timothy Crouse, Sarah Krall, and Tara Zimmerman from Lebanon County; Thomas Ferguson Jr., Somerset; and Michelle Miller and Amanda Schott from York County.

Despite an aging membership, Farm Women continue to perpetuate their motto: "For Happiness." In addition to donations to their individual communities, members worked together for the state project — Feed the Children — and donated \$2,044 to food banks. They believe they are

never too old to learn and conducted sessions on rug weaving, flower arranging, and other crafts.

"Most of all, we had fun" was the message reiterated by many county presidents presenting reports.

Concerned about safety in the home and on the farm, the state society lauds county societies that conduct at safety sessions. Recognized were the following counties: Cambria, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Somerset, York, Adams, Berks, and Dauphin.

Catherine Schott finished her three-year term as president and installed her successor Becky Swallow from Somerset County. Becky has been a Farm Women member for 23 years and even founded one of the nine societies in her county with 174 members. Becky has been married to Raymond Swallow for 35 years and he continues to crop farm. They

have two children and six grandchildren.

Becky said that her theme for the next three years will be "secure our future through our youth."

Other officers installed included state directors Betsy Sattsazahn, Mary Jane Diehl, Betty Wert, Becky Swallow, Sharon Engle, and Lorraine Royer.

The afternoon session included a moving account of growing up in worn-torn Poland during World War II by Hildegard Sollenberger. Now a Cumberland countian, Hildegard told of fleeing from Russian terror, her years as a refugee, and her subsequent move to America.

Entertainment was provided by Country Bear Cloggers of East Berlin. One of the members imitated "Elvis Presley" in dress and song.

The state society will conduct a spring rally May 21 in Franklin County.



A memorial service in honor of members who died during the past year was conducted by Gladys Esbenshade, Charlotte Stoner, and Phyllis Newcomer.



Elvis Presley and the Country Bear Cloggers provide entertainment.



County presidents seated from left are Norma Greider, Cumberland; Lorraine Royer, Lebanon; Betty Hearn, Somerset; and Naomi Mest, Oley. Standing from left are Gladys Esbenshade, Lancaster; Leona Stapleton, Huntingdon; Hannah Bender, Cambria; Evelyn Heil, Dauphin; Frances Reichard, Franklin; and Treva Stiles, York.