

New Major — Zoo Science — At Delaware Valley College

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.)—Delaware Valley College announced it will offer a bachelor of science degree in zoo science, effective August 2003.

The only degree program of its kind in the eastern U.S., the zoo science major will be offered through the college's Animal Biotechnology and Conservation Department. DelVal offers the major in collaboration with the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown.

"This is an exciting partnership that is central to the development of future conservation-

ists," said Dr. Gary Fortier, chair of the Animal Biotechnology and Conservation Department. "Students will benefit from the relationship, because we both share a common mission centered on education and both strive to train conservationists through programs that focus on wildlife management and preservation."

The zoo science major combines a strong science education, conservation training, and internship experiences at an accredited zoological park. Students in the zoo science program will benefit from the diverse expertise offered

by the staff at these two institutions and have the unique opportunity to work directly with zookeepers, curators, educators, and administrative personnel.

Core courses and basic science classes are taken at the college. Five specialized courses, including two internships, are taught at the zoo, providing hands-on experiences that are rarely available to students. Graduates of the program are well equipped for positions in zookeeping and conservation.

Students in the zoo science program will study all aspects of zoo science and conservation, in-

cluding husbandry, handling, care, nutrition, disease, behavior, training, and software and data management. They will complete a one year, part-time internship at the zoo—one half is spent on animal husbandry and the other half is devoted to public education. The specialized requirements for the zoo science major include the following courses: introduction to zookeeping, wild animals in captivity, animal training and enrichment, animal record keeping systems, zoo internship I: animal care, zoo internship II: public education, zoo animal health and disease, and

nutrition for exotic animals.

In addition, students take at least two specialized electives from ornithology, herpetology, mammalogy, and aquaculture. They also need three credits from the following courses: wildlife management, animal behavior, invertebrate zoology or entomology, basic design, livestock management, and reproduction and nutrition.

For more information about the zoo science program, call Dr. Gary Fortier, chair of the Department of Animal Biotechnology and Conservation, at (215) 489-4890.

Food Trust Expands Farmers' Market Program

PHILADELPHIA—A great opportunity for farmers to find new markets for their products is emerging as The Food Trust, an award-winning nonprofit organization, will expand its highly successful farmers market program next season.

The expansion will include participating farmers, sales, and regional market locations. From the farmers' perspective, the need for expansion is clear, as many farmers are looking for more market opportunities. The effort is beneficial to farmers and rural communities.

To respond to farmer's need for markets, the Food Trust has

started a major farmer recruitment effort as part of a larger campaign to expand regional farmers' markets over the next two years. There is room for expansion, as currently less than one third of farmers participate in farmers' markets.

The primary barriers to market opportunities are information and logistics, with 59 percent of farmers not knowing how to find out about market sites, and almost half of all surveyed farmers believing that it takes too much time and effort to come to market. Despite the perceived obstacles, trips to market can be lucrative. 68 percent of farmers

participating said that revenues at markets met their expectations, and 17 percent claimed that their revenues exceeded expectation.

Daily sales at markets average \$650 per farmer, with some of the best farmers surpassing \$1,000 per day in peak season. "It never

did make sense for me the farmer to grow something and basically put most of the work in the product, to sell it to someone else and let them turn around and sell it for twice as much. I don't feel the marketing end takes that much work . . . if the farmer is going to grow it, he might as well direct-

market it and get the full value . . ." claims one farmer.

Next season, The Food Trust plans to open four new markets in a variety of communities. In 2002, more than 30 farmers sold at 12 farmers' markets sponsored by The Food Trust in southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. "Farmers are used to being out in their fields. Now we have a generation of farmers who are coming on. Agriculture's changing so much that you have to start finding direct markets," commented one farmer who participates in markets.

Food Trust markets run from late May through November and operate for four to six hours at a variety of times throughout the day. The earliest markets start at 9 a.m. and all markets are closed by 7 p.m.

For more information, call Brian Lang at (800) 417-9499 x. 24 or e-mail blang@atrust.org.

Passing On The Farm Workshop Feb. 19

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) Planning for your successor, or someone to take over your farm, is the most important task you need to complete if you want your farm to survive into the next generation.

Yet, according to some recent statistics, many farm families have not identified a successor for their family business or even talked to family members about what will happen to the farm when they die.

To assist you in this process, Pennsylvania Farm Link and Penn State Extension will hold a Passing on the Farm workshop at Kreider's Restaurant south of Manheim on Feb. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Farmers seeking ideas for successfully passing their farm to family members, or those interested in locating interested, unrelated farmers to take over an operation, should attend. Beginning farmers are also urged to participate to glean ideas for building their businesses. Topics covered will include bringing the next generation

into the farm business, business planning for a farm transfer, financing for new farmers, crop insurance, estate planning and legal implications, and farmland preservation.

The workshop will conclude with a panel of local farmers discussing how they transferred their own farms.

Lunch will be served in the restaurant and reservations are required. Please mail payment of

\$10 per person to Pennsylvania Farm Link 2708 N. Colebrook Road, Manheim, PA 17545 no later than Feb. 10 to make your reservations. Contact Pennsylvania Farm Link at (717) 664-7077 if you have any questions. Kreider's Restaurant is located one mile south of Manheim on Rt. 72.

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