

Pa. 4-H Leaders Recognized At AYHC National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Ethel Miller, a Pennsylvania 4-H Horse leader from Montgomery County received the 2002 National Youth Horse Leader of the Year Award at the National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium, sponsored by the American Youth Horse Council (AYHC) conducted recently in St. Louis, Missouri.

Miller, a volunteer leader from Green Lane, received the award based on her horse industry involvement, contributions to the youth horse industry, innovative approaches to working with youth, and in-

dustry promotion in her local community.

This is the second consecutive year that Pennsylvania 4-H horse leaders have received the AYHC National Youth Horse Leader Award. Patty Kelly of Westmoreland County received the inaugural award presented by AYHC for 2001.

Miller has been the organizational leader of the TimberTalk Trotters 4-H club in Montgomery County for sixteen years. She is responsible for overseeing many club activities as well as planning meetings.




Ethel Miller, left, National Youth Horse Leader of the Year, accepts a framed picture presented by Nancy Kadwill, Montgomery County Extension Agent.

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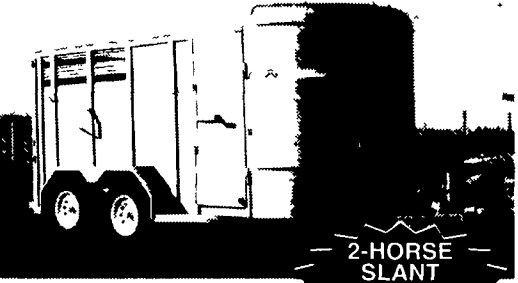
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She acts as a liaison between the club and the county 4-H office. When she became the organizational leader, there were only five members in the club. Now with her leadership and guidance, the club has grown to 40 youth.

Throughout her sixteen years Miller has shown exceptional leadership by emphasizing learning over winning. The 4-H motto, "making the best better," correlates to her idea that learning is best done by actual experience and not by lecturing alone.

Within the club, she gives adult leaders responsibilities based on their individual strengths and weaknesses. She teaches her youth about leadership because she believes that it is an important life skill they should master. With this in mind, Miller encourages the youth to manage the club and conduct club meetings with minimal involvement of adults.

Not only has Miller taught her club members about horsemanship skills, but she also believes in using the horse as a tool to teach youth life skills that will be necessary for their adult years.

Her most successful idea is one that involves using the horse to teach public speaking skills. She has the younger members take a classic childhood tale and turn it into a humorous script about horse knowledge. Her ideas have influenced other clubs and have resulted in more than a tripling in size of the Regional Communications Competition.

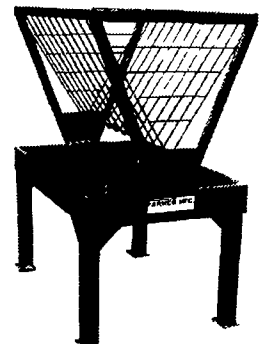
Besides her work in the TimberTalk Trotters Horse Club, Miller has also been involved with the Montgomery County Hippology Team. She holds monthly meetings at the beginning of each year in an attempt to recruit new members and educate the older ones. She has encouraged many people to become involved in this event, which test 4-H members' knowledge of horses and horsemanship.

Miller has also been a part of many people's accomplishments. She was the coach and leader of two national 4-H winners in communication contests, and one winner of the PA 4-H Horse Program Outstanding Member Award.

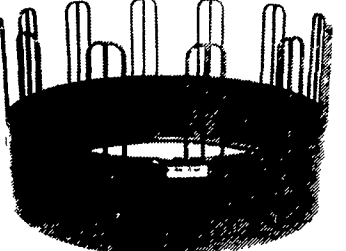
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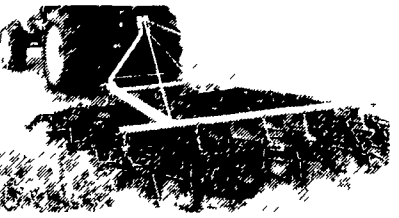


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