

4-H Honors Volunteers With 'Salute To Excellence' Awards

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Two Pennsylvania residents recently were chosen as outstanding volunteers by 4-H as part of the organization's "Salute to Excellence" recognition program.

The program honors individuals who serve as the best examples of 4-H volunteers by showing dedication and hard work, and by having significant positive influence on youth. The Lifetime Volunteer Award is conferred upon an individual who has spent more than 10 years volunteering for 4-H. The Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has served with 4-H for less than 10 years.

Mary Ellen (Ellie) Bard of Portage, Cambria County, was chosen as Pennsylvania's 2003 Lifetime Volunteer Award winner. Bard has participated in numerous 4-H projects and activities since childhood.

An active 4-H leader in Cambria County for more than 20 years, she currently leads the Pleasant Hill Swine Club, the South Ebensburg Community Club and the Cambria County Lamb Club. She has been a member of the state's 4-H Program Advisory Committee since 1985 and spearheaded the creation of the annual Cambria County 4-H Sausage Sale fund-raiser.

Bard has organized and run the 4-H Roadside Clean-Up project with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for 19 years. She also organized "Project Blue Bird Box" with the 4-H Woodworking Club and the County Conservation District for the 2002 4-H Centennial.

Rick Perry of Kennerdell, Venango County, was selected as Pennsylvania's 2003 Volunteer of the Year. Perry has been volunteering for four years and currently serves with the Seneca Indians 4-H Club.

While mainly guiding youth involved in beef cattle care, he also has mentored young people with a variety of interests. Rick is a member of the Venango County 4-H Leaders and is a past fair board director of the 4-H Fair Inc. Through his involvement in these committees, he has helped to initiate a Rate of Gain program for 4-H beef, encouraged a broader awards system for young participants and worked to develop the local 4-H fairgrounds.

The 4-H Salute to Excellence Awards were created in 2002 by Gene and Sharon Swackhamer to emphasize the important work of 4-H volunteers across the nation. They are supported by the Salute to Excellence Fund, which provides donors with the opportunity to recognize 4-H volunteer leaders who have made an impact on their 4-H experiences.

Brubakers Host Farmland Trust



MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.) — Brubaker Farm Spring House, owned by the Luke and Barbara Brubaker family, was the site of a Lancaster Farmland Trust social Tuesday evening. More than two dozen Trust supporters attended. In photo, from left, Luke and Barbara with Heidi Schellenger, executive director of the Trust. Schellenger noted the Trust has so far preserved 160 farms at more than 10,000 acres and is working on a five-year plan that looks at "doubling membership and acres during the next five years," she said. Dan Herr, Strasburg, first board president of the Trust, also spoke about the Trust's early history. Luke Brubaker noted that East Donegal Township has "more farms preserved than any other townships in the U.S.," he said. Brubaker Farm is home to about 500-600 cows and 250,000 broilers.

Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Spring Garden Expo May 17

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — The Penn State Master Gardeners of Wayne County and Penn State Cooperative Extension are having the second annual Spring Garden Expo, Saturday, May 17 at Lakeside Elementary School in Honesdale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission for children is free, and \$2 for adults.

This year's Garden Expo is featuring Ralph Snodsmith, host

of the "Garden Hotline" radio show which is broadcast nationwide on the ABC Talk Radio Network.

The Spring Garden Expo will feature more than 20 garden-related exhibits, educational workshops, and demonstrations throughout the day.

For more information, contact the Master Gardener Program at (570) 253-5970, ext. 239.

Grant Workshop For Value Added Agricultural Products To Be Conducted

PENNSBURG (Montgomery Co.) — The Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development (SEPA RC&D) Council in partnership with USDA Rural Development will be conducting a workshop on the new Value Added Agricultural Product Marketing Development Grant, Thursday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This session will benefit agricultural producers who seek grant assistance in turning their raw product into a marketable, higher value-added product

thereby enhancing their profitability. Attendees will receive instruction on program requirements and how to complete an application for the new Value Added Agricultural Product Marketing Development Grant.

Applications are expected for projects from a variety of agricultural sectors such as corn, soybeans, hardwoods, mushrooms, renewable energy, wineries, agrimarketing ventures and community-supported agricultural projects.

Eligible applicants for the

Value Added Agricultural Product Marketing Development Grant (VADG) program would include independent producers, farm cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

To ensure adequate application packets, register with the SEPA RC&D Council by May 9.

For more information concerning the workshop and to register, contact the SEPA RC&D Council by telephone at (215) 541-7930.

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Correction

In the May 3 issue, *Lancaster Farming* reported erroneous information regarding the recent Meyersdale FFA banquet. Guy Marcellus Sechler is a current resident of the Goodwill Mennonite Home in Grantsville, Md. *Lancaster Farming* regrets the error.

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