

Leaders, Members Receive Lancaster County 4-H Awards

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Special Sections
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — It is rewarding when hard work and effort is applauded, and a recent banquet provided the opportunity for many Lancaster County 4-H'ers and their leaders to be honored for their time and participation in the organization.

The annual 4-H Recognition Night, a banquet conducted at Ruhl's United Methodist Church, drew more than 200 people.

Talent selections included performances by Christine Keefer, Lindsey Bensing, Katrina Smith, Colton King, Erin Bensing, and Lena Ferguson. Each were winners in the junior and senior divisions of the talent show conducted at the 4-H Fair.

In addition to talent selections, several awards were given. Suzanne Schmalhofer, Penn State extension office manager, received the Friend of 4-H award for her willing service to the organization, according to 4-H coordinator Katina Showman.

Sara Beckary, part of the Puppies with a Purpose 4-H Club, won the Best Friend Award. Each year one member of the club is selected for their dedication to the Seeing Eye Program.

The Ephrata Cocalico Community Club was recognized with the 4-H Club Spirit Award. To receive the award (\$100 to the club's treasury), the clubs are asked to describe how they dis-

played 4-H spirit through their head, hearts, hands, and health.

In addition, State 4-H Achievement Days Winners included Erin Bensing, first place, textile science individual; Luke Hershey, first place, photography; and Jared and James Snyder, first place team, advanced orienteering. James Snyder was also named first place individual in orienteering.

Luke Hershey was given the 4-H Superior Achievement Award presented by Kerry Boyd. Hershey, 18, is the son of Les and Lois Hershey, Kirkwood, and a senior at Lancaster Mennonite High School. This year marked Hershey's 10th year of 4-H involvement. He has been a member of numerous clubs, covering the gamut from dairy beef, beef, sheep, and swine to sewing, cross stitching, and basket weaving. He has also served in several leadership offices in the clubs, including working as a teen leader.

"In 4-H I acquired life skills that I needed to become a well-rounded and responsible citizen," said Hershey.

Learning woodworking, for example, allowed him to make a feed trough for his animals. Besides educating him on how to raise animals, it "taught me the art of keeping good records," he said, in addition to schooling him in money management.

In his essay "What 4-H Means to Me," Hershey wrote that there

were two foundational aspects that he learned in 4-H that helped to change his life: leadership and responsibility.

"4-H opened a way for me to try new things and pursue varied interests," said Hershey. He also credits 4-H for helping him learn people skills and parliamentary procedure.

The organization "helps create responsible leaders who will be productive citizens the rest of their lives," said Hershey.

Through 4-H Hershey has also attended state and national leadership conferences and events.

Other awards included this year's honor roll winners. In the junior category winners were Shelly Fairchild, Luke Hershey, and Kelly King. Mackenzie Crump, Hillary Grube, and Brent Talbot won in the senior category winners. These winners will get their name on a plaque at the Farm and Home Center, a \$50 savings bond, a certificate, and comments the judges wrote about their application.

Each year 4-H members have the opportunity to earn scholarships through 4-H. The \$1,000 scholarship will be released after the winners have completed his or her first semester and has enrolled for the second semester at a higher learning institution. This year's winners are Sarah Graybill and Lori Hess.

Additionally teen and adult leaders were recognized for their work in 4-H. Reid Fellenbaum, Boots and Saddles 4-H club, and Pygmy Goat Pride 4-H club, was given the Club President Award. Amber Bensing, Conestoga Valley community club, was given the 4-H Club Secretary Award. Kelsey Lenox, Boots and Saddles 4-H Club, was given the 4-H Club Treasurer Award. Mackenzie Crump, Rough Riders 4-H Horse Club, was given the 4-H Club Social Chair Award.

Adult leaders who have served one, five, 10, 15, and 30 years were also recognized. Serving for 15 years were Eugene Bollinger, Nancy Frey, Brenda Hershey, and Marion Miller.

Stella Hess has worked as a leader for 30 years. She considers her efforts her students "rewarding" and noted that "I'm now teaching their (Hess' former students) children."

Also to honor leaders, two new awards were given during the evening as part of 4-H's new Salute To Excellence award program. The first Volunteer of the Year Award went to Rob Sherick, Manheim, who recruited 32 leaders and 106 members to the Boots and Saddles Club.

Additionally, Connie Rutt, Quarryville, was recognized as the recipient of the first Lifetime Volunteer Award. Rutt has worked as a leader of a sewing club for 27 years, besides working with at-risk youth at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, where Rutt helps with a 4-H nutrition education program. She has also spearheaded and developed, according to Showman, the 4-H international exchange program, which allows 4-Hers the opportunity to travel to Poland and host Polish students.

Katina Showman gave a summary of upcoming 4-H highlights.

The 4-H Club Quiz Bowl — the second year for the event — will again take place during the 4-H Fair, she said. There is a traveling trophy for the 2-4 club members who win the quiz bowl, which includes questions of general knowledge.



Loren Hershey, Kirkwood, a senior at Lancaster Mennonite High School, won this year's 4-H Superior Achievement Award. Loren, center, is pictured with his parents, Les and Lois, and siblings, from left front, Luke, Lisa, and Linford.



Honor roll winners include, from left, Hillary Grube, Luke Hershey, Brent Talbot, Shelly Fairchild, and Kelly King.



Suzanne Schmalhofer, Penn State extension office manager, won this year's Friend of 4-H Award.



Stella Hess has worked as a leader for 30 years. She considers her efforts for her students "rewarding" and noted that she is now teaching children of her former students.

the emcee for the event. Keller has been volunteering his services at the annual 4-H Strawberry Roundup since 1961.

During the evening members of the 4-H program development board were introduced. Formerly the 4-H Leader's Advisory Council and the 4-H Development Fund Board, the two committees, comprised of 4-H leaders, parents, and local business leaders, were combined in January to form the program development board. The board, along with Lori Little, 4-H animal science agent, planned the recognition banquet. Anyone interested in serving on the board can call Showman at (717) 394-6851.

The program is also offering 4-H items such as a t-shirt, fleece blanket, and jacket. Orders for the items are due to the extension office by November 10.

Another opportunity, said Showman, is the upcoming North East States 4-H Leaders Forum, which Pennsylvania will be hosting in 2004. "If you have ever thought about going to one of these things, next year is the time," said Showman.

An open house for 4-H will be conducted January 28. The event offers the community an opportunity to visit with club members and leaders who will be available the booths that represent each club. A video at the event will feature information available for adults who are interested in becoming a volunteer leader.

Auctioneer Harold Keller was



As part of 4-H's new Salute To Excellence award program, the first Volunteer of the Year Award went to Rob Sherick, Manheim. Also a recipient of a new award from the Salute To Excellence program, Connie Rutt, Quarryville, won the first Lifetime Volunteer Award.



Sarah Graybill, left, and Lori Hess won this year's 4-H scholarships. The \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded after they have completed one semester at an institution of higher learning and are enrolled for the next semester.