

State Extension Agents Receive National Awards

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Four Pennsylvania cooperative extension agents have been honored by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA).

Receiving the Achievement Award (AA) were Linda Spahr, York County extension agent for 4-H dairy and livestock, and Dwane Miller, Schuylkill County extension agent for agriculture.

Receiving the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) were Dan McFarland, senior extension agent and agricultural engineer in the capital region, and Norman Conrad, senior extension agent in Union County.

The four extension agents were honored at the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference which took place recently in Green Bay.

The Achievement Award (AA) is presented to the top one percent of agents in each state who have less than ten years of service in Extension. The selection is made by the agents' peers in each state. This year 53 agents won the award at the national level.

Spahr conducts educational programs for 4-H dairy and livestock members in her county and region. She also is responsible for agricultural literacy programming in schools. She conducts a summer day camp that has been chosen by parents as a top educational program for children.



Linda Spahr



Dwane Miller



Dan McFarland



Norman Conrad

Miller is responsible for agronomy, livestock, dairy, and 4-H livestock programming in Schuylkill County. His programs in water quality and conservation have taught people about groundwater flow, helped people understand safe drinking water and how to interpret their test results, and taught private septic system owners about maintenance and system failures. He also taught non-point source pollution principals to school youth.

In addition to their national recognition, the AA winners will receive a Nittany Lion statue and an award from the PA Rural Electric Association.

The DSA is presented to the

top two percent of agents in each state who have more than ten years of service in Extension. The selection is made by the agents' peers in each state. This year 81 agents won the award at the national level.

McFarland serves as an agricultural engineer for six counties in the Capital Region, and he is based in York County. His major program focus has included improving productivity and profitability in new and existing dairy and livestock shelters. His efforts include designs to improve resting area comfort, ventilation, feed and water areas, and heat stress abatement. Over 85% of producers visited in the last five years

have adopted facility improvements suggested by him. His educational programs have reached over 9,000 people with nearly 100 presentations in nine states and Canada. He also has been published in national dairy magazines.

Conrad is responsible for conducting educational programs in agronomic production, water quality, Integrated Pest Management, and farm safety. He coordinated one of the nation's first mandatory manure law implementations, developing educational materials and teaching agency staff and farmers who developed over 800 plans in two years.

Conrad has also worked with local groups to lower county property taxes an average of \$85 per farm based on the "non-contributory" value of old barns. He also worked with a group of high school students to produce a video titled "Better Barnyard Management", which won two national awards and was viewed by 4,000 people the year of its release.

In addition to the national awards, the DSA winners will receive a Nittany Lion statue or other Penn State item, an award from the PA Rural Electric Association, and a House Of Representatives Citation.

4-H'ers Donate To Wayne County Livestock Scholarships

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — In the spirit of "one for all, and all for one," 4-H members received scholarships and donated back to the Wayne County Junior Livestock Scholarship Fund at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, Saturday, Aug. 9.

Prior to the 10 a.m. sale start, 15 senior 4-H members each received \$500 scholarships based on past completion of livestock projects.

Students who qualified for scholarships included: Richard Donovan, Jocelyn Grossman, Nick Keating, Emily Lantzsch, Andrew Lopatofsky, Ashley Liptak, Thomas Nebzydowski, Jeremy O'Neill, Michael Palmer, Jennie Reed, Christopher Rickard, Charity Rybak, Megan Schweighofer, Thomas Warnock, and Matthew Weist.

To date, 43 Wayne County Junior Livestock Scholarships have been awarded since 1998. The scholarships were presented by Dr. Henry Nebzydowski who referred to the recipients as "America's most important resource."

At the start of the livestock sale, which grossed a record



Wayne Co. recipients of the 2003 Dr. David Nebzydowski Memorial Junior Livestock Sale Scholarships: bottom, from left: Nick Keating, Andrew Lopatofsky, Michael Palmer, Matthew Weist, Thomas Nebzydowski, Jeremy O'Neill. Standing, from left: Jennie Reed, Thomas Warnock, Christopher Rickard, Richard Donovan, Megan Schweighofer, Charity Rybak, Emily Lantzsch, Ashley Liptak, Jocelyn Grossman.

\$212,422, Grand Champion Market Hog exhibitor Grace Nebzydowski announced that she was donating the entire proceeds from the sale of her 246 pound crossbred market hog to the Wayne County Junior Livestock Scholarship Fund, renamed this year for her cousin Dr. David Nebzydowski, who was a former 4-H livestock program participant and, later, a supporter of the program.

The sale then took off at a brisk pace with Roger Dirlam, representing Dirlam Brothers Lumber Company of Honesdale, successfully bidding the Grand Champion hog to another record amount of \$16.25 per pound.

In addition to Grace, who is the 11-year-old daughter of Dr. Andrew Nebzydowski and Dr. Patricia Morgan, and a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club, other 4-H members gave the entire amount bid for

one of their animals directly to the Livestock Scholarship Fund.

Amanda Eroh and Matthew Hauenstein, both of Creamton Area 4-H Club, also sold hogs for the Scholarship. Amanda is the daughter of Deborah and Don Eroh. Matthew is the son of Beth and Leonard Hauenstein.

The 250 pound Reserve Grand Champion Hampshire crossbred market hog, raised by Ryan Diehl of Tri-Gal 4-H was sold to the Wayne Bank for \$5.50 per pound. Ryan is the son of Louis and Jule Diehl.

Jessica Miller, daughter of Jim and Rosemary Miller and a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters, raised the 124 pound Grand Champion Market Lamb. Dr. Henry Nebzydowski, Wayne County veterinarian, successfully bid this Suffolk crossbred animal to \$11.50 per pound.

The Reserve Grand Champion 118 pound Suffolk crossbred

Market Lamb was raised by Michael Sheruda, son of Beverly and Michael Sheruda and a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club. John Marshall of Marshall Machinery bought this animal for \$7 per pound.

Rebecca Scull's 1,265 Grand Champion Angus crossbred Market Steer was purchased by Elwin and Shirley Ostrander for \$3.35 per pound. Rebecca is the daughter of Ronald and Tammy Scull and a member of the Laurella 4-H Club.

Pleasant Mount Go-Getter Emily Lantzsch raised the 1,225 pound Reserve Grand Champion Steer. This Angus crossbred steer was successfully bid to \$2.05 per pound by David Gelatt of Precision Homes.

Support for 4-H livestock program participants remained strong throughout the sale. 218 hogs, 132 lambs and 38 steers

were sold by volunteer auctioneers Wayne Weaver, Dick Sands, Barry Sands, Bob Earl, Tom Randt, Dan Naylor, John Regan, Archie Dutton, and Matt Manasse.

Volume buyers in dollar amount poured into the sale included Dirlam Brothers Lumber, Waymart Milling, Rusty Palmer, Inc., Darling Meats, and Elwin and Shirley Ostrander. Volume buyers in terms of number of animals purchased were Rusty Palmer, Marshall Machinery, Mike's Heavy Equipment and Trailer Sales, Inc., and Top Notch Distributors. Kent Brown of Highlights for Children successfully bid 48 animals himself, which were purchased in the names of local businesses.

Additionally, many buyers returned 61 animals for resale to benefit the Dr. David J. Nebzydowski Memorial Junior Livestock Sale Scholarship, the Diane Curtis Medical Fund, the Wayne County Agricultural Society, Laurella 4-H Club, and the Dawn Daniels Kidney Fund.



Grand champion market hog at the Wayne Co. Show, exhibited by Grace Nebzydowski, was purchased by Roger Dirlam of Dirlam Brothers Lumber Company.



Reserve grand champion market lamb at the Wayne Co. Show, exhibited by Michael Sheruda, right, was purchased by John and Marjorie Marshall of Marshall Machinery.