

Cooperative Extension Appoints New Members At Banquet

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Somerset Co. Correspondent
SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) — The Somerset County Cooperative Extension Association appointed four new members during its annual banquet and meeting in November at the Masonic Temple in Somerset. There were more than 90 people attending.

The board consists of 18 members. New members were elected for a three-year term: John Kreger Jr. of Kingwood, Rick Sechler of Meyersdale, Charlene McWilliams of Friedens, and Carl Ickes

of Windber. Two additional members will be appointed by the board at their next meeting.

Kreger represents the Upper Turkeyfoot Township and Rockwood area. He has a 298-acre beef and hog operation and also grows corn, oats, and hay. Kreger is active in community projects and serves as a volunteer fireman for New Centerville Volunteer Fire Department.

Rick Sechler represents the Meyersdale area and is owner and operator of Laurel Sport Shop in Meyersdale. Sechler

serves as a nine-year leader of Buffalo Creek 4-H Club and has served as a key leader. His interest is in youth programs.

McWilliams represents the Geiger-Friedens area and she is a co-owner and operator of a 180-cow dairy operation. McWilliams served as a 4-H dairy club leader for nine years and serves on the Somerset County Holstein Association Board.

Ickes represents the Windber, Hooversville, and Paint Township area. He is a former employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture as a food



John Ferko, far left, Berlin, president of the Somerset County Cooperative Extension Association board, shakes hands with new association board members during the annual meeting and banquet in November. From left, Charlene McWilliams, Carl Ickes, and John Kreger Jr. Rick Sechler of Meyersdale was not present for photograph. Photo by Sandra Lepley, Somerset Co. correspondent

inspector. He serves as the extension board representative on the family living advisory committee.

John Ferko, who serves as president of the board, congratulated the new board members during the banquet. Michael Carr, who was also in attendance, has the position of vice president. Cindy Walker is secretary and Gloria Lohr is treasurer.

Staff members recognized were Dorothy Bromley, director; Miguel Savioff, farm management agent; Joanne Stoltzfus, 4-H and youth development agent; and Agnes Roland and Karen Serball, both nutritional links representatives.

Linda Johnson, administrative assistant, was also honored for 15 years service. Kathy Dwyer, secretary, was honored for 10 years of service.

Several people from the community shared how cooperative extension has touched their lives through programs in 4-H, family living, and agriculture. They included Heather Will, a member of Country Clovers 4-H Club and Somerset County Lamb and Wool Queen; Karen Gibson, an instructional support teacher in Maple Ridge Elementary School

in Somerset Area School District; and Gary Lambert, a greenhouse operator of Lambert Mountain Acres in the Central City area.

The attendees could also view educational displays on home gardening, 4-H, child care, diabetes awareness, West Nile Virus, farm management, food safety, and youth entrepreneurship.

Also, Angela Dice and Ben Gardner, both 4-H Foods Revue participants, hosted the social time before the event and gave everyone an opportunity to try foods from the 4-H event.

Keith Largent, Berlin, a local recording artist, provided musical selections during the meal.

David Filson, regional director for cooperative extension in the south central region, recognized outgoing board members, Diane Wagner, Michael Carr, and Steven Hoffman for their contributions to the extension program.

"Many people have been rewarded either as an individual or part of a project when working with cooperative extension," said Filson. "There are not any people who have affected the farming community clientele for the better than cooperative extension."



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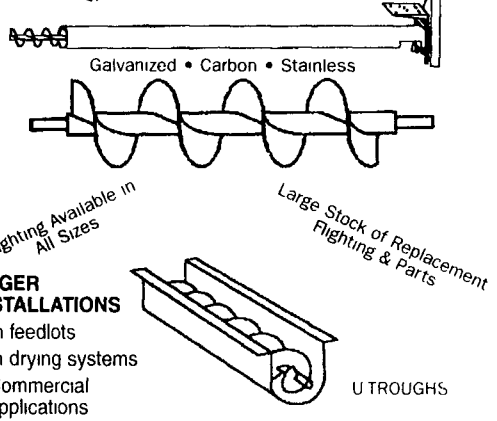


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