

## 2006 Award Recipients

### Lifetime Award—James E. Work

Involved with Cooperative Extension and 4-H as a youth through the present time, Mr. Work has always been involved in the growth and support of extension, agriculture and area youth. Recently, in memory of G. Emerson and Elizabeth Work, Mr. Work provided the funds for conference room furniture at the new Fayette County Cooperative Extension Office.

### Volunteer of the Year—Linda Rooker

Linda Rooker serves as Extension Board President, Co-Organization Leader of countywide 4-H beef club, Co-Chair of Livestock Show and Sale Committee, Coordinator of Jr. Livestock Sale Activities, and Co-Chair of Livestock Scholarship Committee.

### Private Business Award—National City Bank

For continued financial support of the Fayette County 4-H program through sponsorship of the 4-H Leaders Recognition Banquet and buyer at the Jr. Livestock Sale, National City Bank receives this award.

### Community Service Award

#### Gerald and Carolyn Blaney

Mr. and Mrs. Blaney were instrumental in the development of the Fayette County 4-H Endowment program with a donation of \$100,000.00.

**PENNSTATE**



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# PSU

*The Pennsylvania State University*

*Cooperative Extension,  
Fayette County, PA*

## **2006 Annual Report**



**... GROWING FOR YOU!**

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

## Fayette County Extension Staff

Donald C. Fretts County Extension Director Agriculture Educator	Mary Gall 4-H School Enrichment Coordinator through AmeriCorps
Catherine A. Brady 4-H /Youth Development Family/Consumer Science Educator	Christina Becker SW Pesticide Grant Assistant and Community Builders Coordinator
Carol Cottom Nutrition Educator (EFNEP)	Jennifer Braum 4-H Summer Assistant
Cheryl Chiplaskey Nutrition Educator (EFNEP)	Sis Hughes Office Manager
Gary Amos West Nile Virus Technician	Sheri Bergman Administrative Assistant

### Educators throughout the region who serve our County

Walt Bumgarner—Livestock Educator  
Jon Loughner—Ag Entrepreneur Developer  
Mark Remcheck—Urban Forester  
Gene Schurman—Dairy Educator  
Gary Sheppard—Farm Management Educator  
Lee Young—Commercial Horticulture  
Carolyn Wissenbach—Consumer Science Educator

## Extension Board Members

Linda Rooker - President	
Robert Harper Jr. - Vice President	
Debra Teslovich - Secretary	John Piwowar - Treasurer
Donald Bowser	John Curry
Jennifer Deichert	Sister Annette Frey
Cheri Grubbs	Alan Kessler
Daniel Komarinski	Andrea Michaux
Andrea Sholtis	Michael Stump
Dolores Willson	

## Growing Strong Families

In 2006, Penn State Cooperative Extension supported families through programming in EFNEP (Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program) social and human services, volunteer training, and youth programming.

- 169 resource-stressed families received training through six core lessons including food safety, shopping basics, food-guide pyramid, and labeling throughout the county. Of these families 38% participated in WIC, 69% received food stamps, and 37% accessed TANF (a food pantry program). 100% of these individuals met their educational objectives.
- Fayette County has a high rate of **pregnant and parenting teens**. Education in nutrition, food safety, parenting skills, and healthy lifestyles were provided through the Eating for a Better Start program for sixty-nine teens, reached through WIC, Dr. Popat's OBGYN Clinic, and the Pregnancy Support Agency.
- Nutrition Advisors worked with several agencies throughout the county to educate area families including WIC, Head Start, Crime Victims Center, Another Way, Crosskeys, Children and Youth Services, Foster Parents of Fayette County, Even Start, Move Up and several other agencies.
- **EFNEP** reached 375 youth through school and community programs. 89% of participants increased their knowledge of nutrition.
- **"Your Wellness Roadmap Workshops"** were provided to area residents to help combat the high rate of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease in the county. Of the 15 participants, 78% stated that the lessons increased their confidence greatly in incorporating fiber, exercise and healthy foods into their lifestyle.
- Thirteen **"Eat Smart Play Hard"** school assemblies and other programs were presented to over 1400 children, parents, teachers and administrators in elementary schools and day care centers throughout the county. Over 80% of the teachers indicated the program improved awareness of health, nutrition and exercise for themselves and their students.
- Semi-annual **"Fayette Family Focus Newsletter"** reached over 500 families.

## Growing Community Involvement/Education

Community Development through Penn State Extension helps improve the economic, health, social, and environmental well-being of families, business, and communities.

- Quality childcare is absent in many communities. The goal of the **Better Kid Care Program** is to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of child care. This year, approximately **85 child care providers** attended eight workshops/trainings in county. Additionally, **130 local child care providers received web-based training** directly from PSU-BKC. Participants obtained knowledge in the areas of child growth and development, communication, health and safety, and administration. Completers receive training hours to meet state licensing requirements.
- The **Community Builders** program is provided by the Extension Office through a grant from the Human Services Council. Twenty-four people received training to **become effective board members and non-profit leaders**. These people are committed to share their knowledge and skills within their communities and our on their way to becoming our future community leaders.
- The **West Nile Virus Program**, offered through the Cooperative Extension Office, meets the requirements of the DEP for surveillance and control of WNV and its mosquito carriers as it advances through the state. Fayette Counties West Nile Virus Technician worked to monitor and control the mosquito populations throughout the county, providing education about mosquitoes' and their habitat to the general population and to school-aged youth. With an added educational initiative, **346 youth** received training on mosquitoes and West Nile Virus.
- Thirty school food service personnel attended **“Developing Your School Food Safety Program.”** All attendees plan to write and implement Standard Operating Procedures that will monitor time and temperature controls for the service of safe food in their schools.

## A Message from the Board President

*Welcome to Fayette County Cooperative Extension's Annual Meeting. The format and the time of year have both changed since we last met. We have seen other significant changes as well. The office has relocated to it's new home in the old Federal Building. We are grateful to County Commissioners Angela Zimmerlink, Vince Vicites and Joe Hardy for their support in making this happen.*

*We also experienced the departure of another Penn State funded staff member when Lucinda Baron-Robbins relocated to the Washington, DC area. To this date, neither Lucinda's nor Bill Gallagher's positions have been filled by the University. As the percentage of funding dollars from the state and federal governments continues to shrink, county Extension staff and boards are forced to look for alternative ways to fund positions and support programming. Fayette County has been fortunate to receive a generous donation from Carolyn and Gerald Blaney to support 4-H in the future. There are currently two part time staff members whose positions are funded by grants as well as one staff member on board through a partnership with AmeriCorps. As this trend continues, we will be forced to seek more and more funding through "soft dollars" making our role as volunteers vital to the future of Extension.*

*One more significant change I would like to mention is the way we will be electing new board members. This year's election will be conducted by mail. I encourage each of you to take the time to vote and return your ballot to the office.*

*As this is the final year of my second three-year term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the board members I have worked with through the past six years. Many of you I may not have met otherwise. It has been a pleasure getting to know you and work with you. I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to the furtherance of Fayette County Cooperative Extension.*

*Linda Rooker*

## Growing Agriculture

Agriculture continues to demand higher skilled individuals to compete in this age of technology, safety, and accountability.

In 2006:

- Developed a plan with Keystone Farmers Cooperative Association to increase sales of beef cattle. **Sales doubled over a one year period.**
- Developed and recommended changes to improve the success of the **Uniontown Farmers Market.**
- Conducted Meat Animal Quality Assurance training for over **350 youth** and adults in the county.
- Over **500 participants** from Greene, Fayette, Washington, and Cambria counties successfully obtained pesticide license continuing education credits to maintain their current licenses, with four individuals completing an exam for a new license. Housed and supervised a Pesticide Educator hired through the SW Pest Ed Grant to update and develop educational material.
- Completed 3rd year study of **on-farm research** projects evaluating till versus no-till plantings in Washington, Butler, and Armstrong counties.
- Coordinated the SW PA Tillage Workshop of **100 participants** from six counties in which over 60% stated a likelihood to change soil management practices, expand no-till practices, and an interest in updating their sprayers.
- Wrote and published **six editions** of the Agronomy Notes newsletter that reaches over **1000 clients.**
- Visited producers on farms requesting assistance with agricultural issues.
- Cooperatively developed a Beginning Farmer on-line course.
- Wrote and taped morning agricultural radio show broadcasts with WANB.
- Worked with **15-20 master gardeners** through a redesigned county program to provide new and advanced training.
- 90% of participants in the **2006 Crop Planning Workshop** indicated they had learned at least one new thing about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) with 61% reporting a gain of new skills for using pesticides safely.
- **Western PA Vegetable Growers Seminar** drew over 90 participants. Many attend annually and report this program has helped them improve the quality of their crops and their practices.
- Participants in the **SW PA Wine Growers Group** made improvements in their vineyard management and wine quality control as a result of educational meetings held at **C.W. Klay Winery** in Fayette County.



## Growing Youth through 4-H

Penn State Cooperative Extension's 4-H/youth program helps young people become self-directed, productive, and contributing members of a diverse society. In 2006, our 4-H program impacted over 2,600 youth in traditional and school enrichment programs with 105 adult volunteers involved in the direct education of these youth.

Outstanding activities 4-H/youth participated in throughout the year:

- Over twenty 4-H members received clover pins and other awards at the **new Step-Ladder Achievement Award Program** celebration.
- Eight Fayette County 4-H Leaders attended the **Southwest 4-H Leader's Symposium** in Indiana, PA.
- Twenty-eight members entered and showed animals in the **Pennsylvania Farm Show.**
- Fifty-one members participated in **District X Horse and Dairy Shows** with eighteen advancing to state competitions.
- Fourteen teens attended **Southwest Teen Leader Retreat.**
- Sixteen members attended the **President/Vice President/Secretary's Officer's Training.**
- Eight youth attended **SW 4-H Camp.**
- Twenty horse members attended the **Fayette County 4-H Horse Camp.**
- Two members from the county moved on to the regional public speaking contest with one advancing to the state contest.
- Seven members entered the **SW 4-H Fashion Review.**
- For the first time from our county, two 4-H members competed in **Ag Progress Days Equine Skill-a-thon** at Ag Progress Days.
- Junior and Senior Shotgun Teams competed during **State 4-H Achievement Days at Penn State** with two senior members advancing to the **National 4-H Shooting Sports** competition in South Dakota.
- Over 80 4-H members participated in the **4-H Olympics** event at the Fayette County Fair sponsored by **Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.**
- 597 4-H youth from 34 organized 4-H clubs in the county exhibited their final projects at the **2006 Fayette County Fair.**
- Eighteen **School Enrichment Programs** were conducted in traditional grades K-12 and non-traditional after school programs to over 2000 youth in the county.