



COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA

Office of Agricultural Coordinator

Sheila Miller, Agricultural Coordinator

Berks County Ag. Center
1238 County Welfare Road, Suite 110
Leesport, PA 19533-9709

Phone: 610-898-5482

Fax: 610-378-7961

E-mail: SMiller@countyofberks.com

Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair
Mark C. Scott, Esq., Commissioner
Kevin S. Barnhardt, Commissioner

MaryJo Gibson, Chief Clerk
Alan S. Miller, Solicitor
Carl E. Geffken, Chief Operating Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/25/13

LEESPORT --- More than 100 students and exhibitors filled the Berks County Ag Center earlier this month and learned about future careers in the agriculture and food industries. Some participated in an impromptu fundraising auction that netted \$188 for scholarships and future Ag Career Fairs, reported Sheila Miller, Berks County's Agricultural Coordinator.

"Dick Henry, who teaches the auctioneering course at Reading Area Community College, sold items donated by exhibitors," she explained. "This is the second year for this activity. Everyone got into the spirit of supporting this event, and I thank the donors and the buyers for their contributions. It is something everyone looks forward to throughout the morning."

In its fourth year, the Ag Career Fair is organized by the Office of Agricultural Coordinator, with help from the Berks Agricultural Resource Network and the Southeastern PA Agriculture Partnership. "We are seeing an increase in the number of exhibitors and student participants with every year that passes," observed Miller.

2013 exhibitors included: Berks Agricultural Resource Network; Berks Co. Agricultural Land Preservation Office; Berks Co. Conservation District; Berks Co. Office of Agricultural Coordinator; Berks County Grange; Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers; Berks/Southeast Cattlemen's Association; Deer Country Farm and Lawn, Inc.; Delaware Valley College; F.M. Brown's Sons, Inc.; Fulton Bank; Giorgi Mushroom Company; Harcum College; Hartman-Shurr Law Firm; Johnson College; Karetas Foods; Morrisville State College, New York; Pennsylvania College of Technology; PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources; PA Game Commission; Penn State Extension—Berks County; Reading Area Community College; Penn State University; Reading Eagle Newspaper; Rosetree Consulting ; Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania; Southeastern PA Agriculture Partnership; US Army Corps of Engineers ; USDA Farm Service Agency ; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Winterside Sheep Farm.

Dedicated to public service with integrity, virtue & excellence

www.countyofberks.com

“Students who attended the Career Fair and visited with exhibitors were entered into a drawing for prizes,” explained Miller. The winners were announced during the Berks Agricultural Resource Networks *National Ag Day* celebration on March 21st. PA Secretary of Agriculture George Greig drew the four lucky winners: Megan Katchur, Hamburg High School; Brennan McAuley, Wilson High School; Stephanie Merkel, Conrad Weiser High School, and Veronica Ehrhart, Reading Area Community College.

For more information, contact Sheila Miller, Berks Agricultural Coordinator at 610-898-5482 or smiller@countyofberks.com.

Photo:



Llew Williams, a full-time employee at Deer Country Farm & Lawn, Inc., attended the Ag Career Fair in 2011 when he was a college student. His conversation with Kim Dietz from the company led to a summer internship and a fulltime job upon graduation. He was pleased to be back as an exhibitor in 2013, manning the booth.