



PA 4-H Leaders Recognized at AYHC National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium

The Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program received recognition at the National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium, sponsored by the American Youth Horse Council (AYHC) held recently in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Volunteer leaders and Penn State extension educators received national awards, in addition to presenting seminars and helping plan and coordinate the symposium.

Patty Kelly, volunteer 4-H leader from Latrobe, PA received the Youth Horse Leader of the Year award for her outstanding leadership to young people in the horse industry. Patty received the award based on her horse industry involvement, contributions to the youth horse industry, innovative approaches to working with youth, and her willingness to mentor young horsemen and women.

Patty has been a volunteer for 28 years with the Harrold Alwine 4-H Horse Club in Westmoreland County. She has been instrumental in the development of several innovative youth horse programs at local, district and state levels, including therapeutic riding, horse camps, safety education, leadership development and motivational tools for youth. Most recently, Patty initiated and piloted the 4-H horsemanship skills program in Westmoreland County, and is a key leader in the introduction of the program throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

Ethel Miller, volunteer 4-H leader from Green Lane, PA was also recognized as a finalist for the Youth Leader of the Year Award. Ethel has been a volunteer for over 20 years and a leader of the Timbertalk Trotters 4-H Horse Club in Montgomery County. She has been an enthusiastic and creative teacher who makes learning fun for youth and involves both youth who own horses as well as youth who do not have a horse of their own. Ethel has been instrumental in the development of county and regional communication and hippology contests and the Montgomery County Winter Horse Science Camp. She was the coach and leader of two national 4-H winners in communication contests, and one winner and five finalists of the PA 4-H Horse Program Outstanding Member Award.

Pat Comerford, Penn State Extension Horse Specialist, was recognized by the American Association of Horsemanship Safety as the Equine Educator of the Year. She received the Paul Travis Memorial Award for her leadership and innovative endeavors resulting in superior youth horse safety materials. Pat provides leadership for the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program and coordinated the development of the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Safety Program. The 4-H Horse Program promotes safety of youth by providing educational resources, recognition of members and leaders for safety achievements, and opportunities for collaboration in safety programming. Pat was also recognized for her leadership as the outgoing President of the American Youth Horse Council and her active involvement with AYHC for many years. She also presented a seminar on competitive trail riding in youth programs.

Ann Swinker, Penn State Extension Horse Specialist and Past President of AYHC, introduced and recognized Mr. Ed Roberts, the recipient of the AYHC Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Swinker also presented a seminar on respiratory disorders in equestrian instructors.

Ms. Nancy Kadwill, Extension Agent, and volunteers from Montgomery County presented a seminar on the youth winter horse science camps. The volunteers participating in the presentation were Barb Sly, Joan Polk, Judy Ann Larsen, Gwen Semmens, and Glynn Schauder.

PENNSTATE



College of
Agricultural Sciences

Cooperative Extension
Dairy and Animal Science

(814) 865-5491
FAX: (814) 865-7442

The Pennsylvania State University
324 Henning Building
University Park, PA 16802-3503

Patty Kelly and volunteers from Westmoreland and Indiana County also presented a seminar on the Pennsylvania 4-H Horsemanship Skills Program. The volunteers participating in the presentation were Scott Kelly, Christy Kelly, Kathy Casale, Pam Nealer and Sally Acosta.

For more information on Penn State and 4-H horse programs see the web site at: www.das.psu.edu - click on horses, or contact your local Penn State Cooperative Extension office.