



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

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

Carl W. Staples, Chief Operations Officer
Alan S. Miller, Solicitor
Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk

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Contact: Sheila Miller, Agricultural Coordinator, 610-898-5482

Ag Career Fair Links Students with Futures in Food and Fiber Industries

LEESPORT ---- An agricultural career fair was held on Friday, May 21, 2010 at the Berks County Agricultural Center to bring students in touch with businesses and schools connected with agriculture, conservation, and related industries. Berks County's Agricultural Coordinator Sheila Miller said this is the first of what she hopes will be an annual event. Twenty exhibitors shared their knowledge with students and teachers from six Berks County schools which included Reading, Schuylkill Valley, Governor Mifflin, Tulpehocken, Conrad Weiser and Twin Valley.

"I was pleased that students were able to dialogue personally with a wide variety of businesses, colleges and universities," said Miller. "All of the agencies at the Berks Ag Center participated, along with private businesses and academic institutions." Participating in this inaugural event were: Fulton Bank; The Pennsylvania State University; F.M. Brown's Sons, Inc.; Harcum College; Pennsylvania Game Commission; PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources; Johnson College; Pennsylvania Young Farmers' Association; USDA Farm Service Agency; Penn State Cooperative Extension – Berks County; Berks County Conservation District; Reading Area Community College; Capital Ideas, Inc.; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Office; Berks County Office of Agricultural Coordinator; Berks Agricultural Resource Network; Hartman Shurr Law Offices.

The Berks County Office of Agricultural Coordinator partnered with the Southeastern PA Agriculture Partnership and the Berks Agricultural Resource Network in hosting this career fair. Students received a booklet on careers in agriculture with information from the Agriculture Council of America. Prizes will be awarded to registered participants, and two scholarships will be given to a high school and a collegiate student. Anyone interested in being notified of the 2011 Ag Career Fair can be added to the mailing list on request. Contact Miller at smiller@countyofberks.com or 610-898-5482.

"I look forward to more exhibitors and students taking part in this educational opportunity next year," said Miller. "We are here to help people find their futures in the field of agriculture and related industries. It is a great way to make connections for careers, internships, and job shadowing experiences."

Photos and captions:



Dr. Nadine Hackman, VMD, speaks to a student about Harcum College's veterinary technology program.



Tulpehocken students explore future enrollment opportunities at Penn State to study agriculture.



Governor Mifflin students and their advisor listen to Johnson College's Kristen Buli explain their technology programs that include Veterinary technology, carpentry, diesel truck, electronic, biomedical, drafting & design at their Scranton campus.