

YOUNG FARMERS RECEIVE AWARDS 2017

PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding received the Honorary Young Farmer Award at the recent winter conference of the PA Young Farmers Association in Shippensburg. Redding was honored with a life membership for his years of support of the organization and Pennsylvania agriculture.



Secretary Redding with Chris Weller

Several other awards were given to PYFA members at the conference. Chris and Debbie



Dan Fox, PYFA Regional VP, with Debbie & Chris Smith

Smith of Gettysburg received the Agribusiness Person of the Year Award for their Smithfield Farms and Fields of Adventure. Their various enterprises include off farm retail marketing, corn maze entertainment, playground areas, picnicking, zip line adventure, field crop production including popcorn, kettle corn production and sales, and on-farm beef, pork, egg and poultry

sales. The Smiths have been active

members and generous supporters of Gettysburg Young Farmer programs.

The Outstanding Young Farmer Under 30 was awarded to Dennis Boop Jr., a member of Mifflinburg Young Farmers chapter. After graduating from Penn College of Technology DJ came back home to work on the family's farm where he, his Grandfather Jim and father Dennis grow 500 acres of corn, soy beans and small grains and custom harvest over 2000 acres in the Mifflinburg area. This year the farm will be expanding with a 4800 head hog barn that DJ will be in charge of. He also operates his own livestock hauling business and competes in tractor pulling.



Dennis Boop Jr with Lizzie Bailey, PYFA Regional VP



Mr & Mrs Matthew Dersham with Steve Kline, Regional VP

Matthew Dersham, also of Mifflinburg Young Farmers, received the Outstanding Young Farmer Over 30 award. He raises 40,000 organic layer chickens and the family packs eggs twice every day. He also grows corn and soybeans and loves tractor pulling locally and interstate.

The Outstanding Community Service Award was presented to Jacob Frazier of the Cedar Crest Young Farmers chapter. Jake and his family raise cage-free layers, dairy beef and swine, and operate a business for custom drilling, combining, mechanical work, and welding.



Mr & Mrs. Jacob Frazier with Judy Croner, Regional VP

The Richard Hoppes Memorial Award went to Jeff and Kathy Rohrer of the Gettysburg chapter for their years of service and dedication to the PYFA.



Dan Wilkinson with Jeff Rohrer and Grace Hoppes



2017 President Jason Rentzel presenting the plaque to past president Denise Leydig.