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Inside Information

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FITTON, OF USDA, SELECTED COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

H. Nelson Fitton, Jr., head of the Publishing Division of USDA's Office of Information, has been selected as Communicator of the Year by the National Association of Government Communicators.

An award will be presented at a special luncheon Nov. 16 during NAGC's annual conference, "Communications at the Crossroads," in Arlington, Va.

The Communicator of the Year award was created to recognize that government official who has made a major contribution to the effective advancement of publication information/public affairs.

Fitton was one of the first officials selected for Senior Executive Service training at USDA.

A graduate of George Washington University in Washington, D.C., with both B.A. and M.A. degrees, Fitton is no stranger to awards.

Among other awards, he received the Horace Hart Award from the Education Council of the Graphic Arts Industry in 1980 for distinguished public service in the field of printing and publishing. He is an Associate Fellow of the Society for Technical Communication.

Fitton was once president of NAGC, as a well as president of the Washington Chapter of Agricultural Communicators in Education.

While the list of his accomplishments goes on and on, tucked away in one corner of his biography is an unexpected item: Fitton also is a published poet.

NUTRITION DATA WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE ON A SECOND SYSTEM

Information on human nutrition research will be available on two data base systems starting in November.

First, the Human Nutrition Research Information Management system became available in May through "NutriSearch," developed by the National Institutes of Health.

Now the data will be available through a commercial vendor, as well, Dialog Information Systems, Inc.

The HNRIM system provides data on more than 3,534 projects in human nutrition research, manpower development, training and education within the federal government.

NAL PLANS INTENSIVE WORKSHOP IN DECEMBER

The National Agricultural Library is sponsoring an intensive level AGRICOLA, CRIS, and CALS workshop, Dec. 10-14 in Washington, D.C.

The workshop is designed to train librarians, information specialists, research scientists, and managers in the efficient use of these three interrelated USDA information services and systems.

Individuals wishing to attend should submit their request on letterhead stationery to: Education & Information Staff, National Agricultural Library, Room 203, ATTN: Charles Bebee, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

Requests for enrollment and the \$300 fee, where applicable, must be received at least two weeks before the workshop. The tuition is waived for employees of federal, state, and local governments, as well as individuals employed by land-grant universities.

TRIP TO GRAPE COUNTRY WAS PURE NOSTALGIA

She didn't exactly stomp grapes with her bare feet when she was growing up on a small grape farm in northwest New York, but Brenda Curtis, radio information specialist with USDA's Office of Information, knew what she was talking about as she gathered material for a series of programs on grape-growing during October in her home state.

Curtis had been trying to get back to Westfield for years because she knew there were good stories there. Grape growing and harvesting were changing, she knew, and radio audiences would be interested.

Personally, Curtis was disappointed to find that the buyer of her grandfather's farm had pulled out the grape vines, planning to subdivide and build homes.

It also disappointed Curtis to find that growers of grapes for juice only were having a bad year financially because of supply/demand imbalances. They were getting \$110 a ton for their grapes, the same as her grandfather had received when he quit farming in 1961.

Wine grape growers had a totally different problem, Curtis found. They were victims of the dumping of subsidized wine in the United States by the European Community.

Her series, tinged with nostalgia, will be aired soon.

COMMUNICATIONS WEEK PLANNED BY C-A-S-E

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) is sponsoring Communications Week Nov. 26-30 at the Westin Copley Place in Boston.

Programs to choose from include: covering research activity; writing for periodicals, publications, and promotions; and making your news service more effective.

For more information and registration, contact: CASE, Suite 400, 11 Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036, or telephone (202) 328-5900.

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