

Norwich Bulletin

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## **Newsmaker of the Day: Bonnie Kegler**

### **Killingly teacher is honored for outstanding agricultural teaching**

By JOHN PENNEY

**In the news:** Killingly teacher Bonnie Kegler was one of six educators to receive the Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award by the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

**Background:** Kegler has spent 14 years at the Killingly Regional Agricultural Education Center developing lessons and curriculums in agribusiness, animal science and food science. During her time training career development teams at the center, she won 15 state championships. Kegler, who lives in Mansfield Center, held office and served on committees in the Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators.

**Students:** Along with classroom instruction, Kegler incorporates supervised agricultural experience into her programs, which are graded each quarter based on how well students learn outside the class. During their junior and senior years, her students do job shadowing for at least six hours to help narrow their career choices after graduation.

**The award:** Each of the six winners received a two-year lease on a Toyota Tundra, a reception and dinner in their honor, a plaque, cash award and all-expenses-paid trip to an educational conference in Charlotte, N.C.

**Quotable:** "You must deliver your lessons in a manner that you find exciting and your enthusiasm will be contagious," she said.