



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 29, 2014

CONTACT: Elizabeth Peroni, eperoni@pfma.net
PFMA (717) 982-1248

BOYER'S FOOD MARKETS BAGGER WINS STATE GROCERY BAGGING CHAMPIONSHIP

Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association Hosted the Contest at Strawberry Square in Downtown Harrisburg

HARRISBURG, PA (October 29, 2014) — After several tries, Matthew Nonnemacher finally has the Pennsylvania's Best Bagger Championship trophy to take home to Boyer's Markets in Hazelton. He beat 18 competitors during the contest today at Strawberry Square in Harrisburg.

The competition, hosted by the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA), brings together the state's best grocery baggers for an action-packed bag-off measuring their speed, proper bag building technique, weight distribution, style, attitude and professional appearance. The contestants bag in environmentally-friendly reusable shopping bags.

Nonnemacher, 26, excelled in his weight distribution as his bags were just 7/100th different in weight. Excellent, since the weight should be evenly distributed. He won a trip to Las Vegas to compete in the National Grocery Bagger Championship in Las Vegas on February 9, 2015. In addition, he received a championship trophy and \$250.

In addition to Nonnemacher, the finalists were Brandyn Leeson, Boyer's Food Markets, 2nd place; Lauren Barricella, Giant Eagle, 3rd place; and Lydia Szlasa, Tops Markets, 4th place.

The 19 contestants represented Bill's ShopRites, Covington Township, Pa; Boyer's Food Markets, Orwigsburg, Pa.; Giant Eagle, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Karns Quality Foods, Ltd., Mechanicsburg, Pa., McMenamin Family ShopRites, Philadelphia, Pa. and Tops Markets, Buffalo, New York.

News anchor Alicia Richards, WHTM-TV ABC 27 in Harrisburg, emceed the contest and in honor of her participation, PFMA donated \$500 to her charity of choice — the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Pennsylvania Chapter. PFMA also donated all the products to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

-more-

Best Bagger 2-2-2

Special thanks to our judges Mary Bach, a nationally recognized consumer advocate, and Jayne Johnson, cooperative education coordinator at Dauphin County Technical School; and to our student volunteers from Dauphin County Vo-Tech School in Harrisburg, Pa.

Special thanks to the sponsors: The Shops at Strawberry Square, AARP of Pennsylvania and Penn Jersey Paper Company, our reusable bag sponsor. Thanks also go to Karns Quality Foods for loaning the shopping carts and to Central PA Scale and Equipment for loaning the scales for the contest.

The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, based in Camp Hill, is a statewide trade association advocating the views of more than 800 retail food stores, wholesale distributors and other associated business members throughout Pennsylvania. PFMA members operate more than 2,500 stores and employ more than 100,000 Pennsylvanians. For more information on PFMA, visit www.pfma.org.

###



PO Box 870, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0870 | 800-543-8207 x5516 | pfma@pfma.net
pfma.org