

FFA Star Farmers to Get Awards At 1956 Pennsylvania Farm Show

HARRISBURG. — In recognition of exceptional achievement as a farm boy, James H. Speed, Jr., of Blairs Mills, County, will be proclaimed as the "State Star Farmer of Pennsylvania" by the Future Farmers of America at their mid-winter meeting during the 1956 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

The honor, highest which can come to an FFA boy at the State level, will be conferred upon him January 11 by the FFA State president, Robert L. Welk, of Strasburg, RD 1. In addition to winning the top Statewide honor, James has been designated as Star Farmer for the south central region of Pennsylvania.

Four Regional Star Farmers
Names of four other regional Star Farmers also were announced today.

Young Speer was selected for the high FFA rank by the Keystone FFA Advisory Council because his achievements in scholarship, agriculture and leadership gave him the highest score among all nominees for the FFA's Keystone Farmer degree. He is a 1955 graduate of Juniata Joint High School at Mifflintown and was 17 years old last April.

According to H. C. Fetterhoff, FFA advisor and chief of agricultural education in the Department of Public Instruction, James earned \$13,176 from his farming program in four years and, after paying expenses, had a net worth of more than \$5,200. Starting as a freshman with two cows and one calf, he expanded his farming program until this year his productive enterprises have included a dairy herd of four purebred cows, two purebred heifers and two purebred calves, as well as seven purebred Hampshire sows and eight pigs, more than 150 White Rock capons, two acres of corn and thirteen acres of oats.

Effective January 1, 1956, James and his father will become equal partners in operations of the farm. James already owns

valued at \$2,510 and equipment worth \$1,720.

During his high school career, young Speed was captain of the baseball team and took the leading part in class plays his Junior and senior years. In the Future Farmers, he was president of his chapter and of the Huntingdon-Juniata-Mifflin county area, and participated in local, regional and State contests, winning honors for farm records, dairy herd records, and in public speaking. He is president of his Youth Fellowship and is librarian for his Sunday School.

The honor of being picked as the State Star Farmer carries with it an award of \$100 from the National FFA Foundation.

Representing the 17-county south central district, young Speer is one of five FFA boys chosen as Regional Star Farmers because they scored the most outstanding achievements in agriculture and leadership within their regions. The other Regional Star Farmers are:

NORTHEASTERN REGION (15 counties) - Richard Plotts, 17, of Forksville, member of the Mt. Laurel FFA Chapter and senior at the Loyalsock Joint High School at Forksville. Sullivan County Richard has a well-rounded farming program, with a dairy herd of four Guernseys, 200 laying hens and 200 baby chicks, five Dorset sheep and cultivation of strawberries and raspberries; but in some years has made his largest single source of income from his wildlife project. He has been raising ringneck pheasants for the State Game Commission at \$1 per bird and has project has been outstanding enough to win prize money from the Game Commission also. He has held offices in his FFA chapter and is vice president of the senior class and of the fish and game club. He has participated in dairy judging and poultry judging in northeastern Pennsylvania and has held several offices in the Juvenile Grange.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION (16 counties) - Charles Shoun, 19, Avondale, RD 1, Chester County, Avon-Grove Joint High School FFA Chapter, West Grove. Now a senior, he has a dairy herd of five purebred Holstein cows, has corn, wheat and barley projects, and for the third year has been active in soil conservation. He has held a series of FFA offices, starting with his freshman year, and now is president of his chapter and vice president of the Chester County FFA. In 1954 he won the Southern Chester County 5-acre corn contest. He is prominent in high school activities and is president of the YFC Bible Club.

John Melhorn Heads Co-Op Seventh Time

John E. Melhorn, Mount Joy, has been reelected for his seventh consecutive term as president of the Producers Cooperative Exchange. The directors, meeting in Coatesville, reelected the entire slate of officers.

Others returned were Mark S. Hess, R6 Lancaster, vice president, Paul L. Coates, R2 Coatesville, secretary; and Elmer F. Groff, Rheems, treasurer.

Meat Output in 1955 at Record

(Continued from Page One)

ful and relatively low in price. They seem likely to stay plentiful, what with improved production methods on new crops and extensive storage on old.

"Conversely, practically all business indicators suggest continued high income for consumers which should assure a continued good demand for meat. With supplies of livestock and demand for meat remaining high, the meat packing industry looks to the immediate future with more hope than for some time."

He explained that fixed processing and distributing costs in labor and plant facilities in the meat industry have risen 37 per cent in the last five years. With a higher volume of meat processed, however, the cost per unit declines and there is a better opportunity to improve earnings.

Profit Showing Dismal

"The meat industry has made a dismal showing, profit-wise, in recent years," Foster noted, adding: "Perhaps now, with improved plant facilities and larger volume of sales to reduce costs, we shall be able to do better."

He said the Institute, comprising companies which turn out more than 85 per cent of the nation's total meat, had worked diligently during the year to advance the popularity of meat in the diet. Pork, especially, received great emphasis because it was in a relatively weaker position than other meats.

The Institute recommended that pork processors trim the fat more closely from retail cuts to make them more attractive to shopping housewives. Numerous consumer surveys had showed a marked preference for lean pork. Foster said, leading to the first major change in meat processing in recent years.

Great Strides in Research

Great strides also were made in research on frozen prepackaged meats, nutrition, meat preservation and by-products, the Chairman added. On the meat production end, Foster said the 1955 total of about 26.8 billion lbs topped the previous year's record of 25.3 billion. The per capita consumption of 161 lbs in 1955 was second only to the 163.3 lbs in 1908.

Most of the rise was in pork, which amounted to approximately 11 billion lbs in 1955 as compared with about 10 billion the year before. Per capita consumption of pork rose from 59.7 lbs in 1908 to 66 lbs in the year.

With heavy supplies, prices on live hogs plummeted in the last half of the year to the lowest since before Pearl Harbor. Heavy bunching of hog shipments unusually early in the marketing season accounted for a share of the decline, Foster said.

Production of beef edged up about 2 per cent, from 13 billion lbs to 13.6 billion, in 1955, and beef consumption per person reached a record 81 lbs from 79.2.

Consumption of pork per person in 1956 may rise about a lb, he predicted, while beef is expected to be about two lbs lower and veal, lamb and mutton off small fractions. This would make for a slight reduction in the per capita consumption to around 160.5 lbs, but the larger population factor accounts for the predicted larger total meat production of 27.2 billion lbs.

Harmony in Black and White



One of the most demanded musical groups in Lancaster County is the Holstein Quartet, an aggregation from the Lampeter-Strasburg High School. Recently the foursome ranked in the top five at the International Livestock Exposition's Four-H Club Congress. Here they are in action at the recent Production Credit Administration-National Farm Loan Administration meeting in Mount Joy. Members of the foursome are Raymond Denlinger, R4 Lancaster; John Stoner, R7 Lancaster; Stanley Longenecker, R1 Strasburg and Aaron Landis, R1 Strasburg. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

Ruth E. Herr Crowned 1956 Apple Queen

Miss Ruth E. Herr, 19-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Herr, RD2 Lancaster, Tuesday night was crowned Apple Queen of Lancaster County.

She will represent the County in the state contest at York Jan. 31. Miss Priscilla Weaver, Bird-in-Hand, last year's queen, crowned the new royalty in ceremonies at the North Queen Street Branch of the Lancaster County National Bank.

Her parents operate a large fruit farm near Mountville.

Miss Herr is a graduate of Manor High School, and is now a sophomore at the Pennsylvania State University, majoring in secondary education. Spanish and English.



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