

Lancaster Farming

SECOND SECTION



23 County FFA Boys Earn Keystone Farmer Degree

Honors which cannot go to more than one farm boy in fifty will be awarded during the 1968 State Farm Show to 206 Pennsylvania vocational agriculture students.

All are members of the Future Farmers of America and, because of unusual merit in their school and home projects, have qualified for the FFA degree of "Keystone Farmer," James C Fink, FFA State Advisor and Supervisor of Agricultural Education in the Department of Public Instruction, reported Under FFA rules, not more than two percent of the State membership can receive this honor.

The degree will be conferred in the Forum of the Education Building in Harrisburg by the FFA State officers, headed by Earl Weaver, Middletown R1, the FFA State president, during the FFA mid-winter State convention Wednesday, January 17.

Highest FFA degree at the State level, the Keystone Farmer title is awarded for outstanding achievement in agriculture and rural life. To be eligible, Mr. Fink said, the FFA member

must have satisfactorily completed at least two years of instruction in vocational agriculture, demonstrated marked leadership, earned and invested at least \$500 productively, and attained satisfactory achievement in improving the farm's efficiency or his home farm's comfort.

The FFA boys from Lancaster County who will receive the degree January 17 are

Thomas E. Houser

Thomas Houser, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs J Wilbur Houser, Lampeter, is a senior at Lampeter - Strasburg High School. He has served as president of the Garden Spot FFA Chapter and reporter for the Lancaster County Red Rose Chapter. Student announcer for basketball games, Houser was also in the Junior Class play and received the Red Rose Degree and Gold Award Winner in Farm Mechanic last year.

Houser's farming program consisted of: swine breeding and fattening, beef breeding and fattening, and corn. He now has 3 acres of corn and 14 fattening hogs.

Thomas is the third Houser brother to receive the Keystone Farmer Degree

FFA To Honor Parents Of Four Keystone Farmers

The Future Farmers of America during their State convention at the 1968 State Farm Show will present honorary awards to parents whose families contain three or more sons who have earned FFA's "Keystone Farmer" degree.

Most farm families deem it a high honor to have even one son receive the Keystone Farmer degree, because it is the highest degree which can be earned at the State level, cannot be bestowed upon more than one FFA boy in 50, and is awarded for outstanding achievement in farming practices, leadership, and scholarship. To have three or more degree holders in the same family is rare, but eight sets of parents so distinguished have been invited to be guests at the FFA convention, January 17. Fathers in these families will receive the Honorary Keystone Farmer degree, and mothers will receive special certificates recognizing their cooperation in aiding their sons earn the coveted degree.

Four sets of parents from Lancaster County will join the magic circle January 17 when they see their third son become Keystone Farmers. These parents and their degree-earning sons are: Mr Clair L. Erb and Mrs. Janet M Erb, Columbia R2 (Penn Manor) Daniel - 1962, Dave - 1966, Clair - 1968; Mr John A Breneman and Mrs Helen K Breneman, Willow Street R1 (Lampeter-Strasburg) Arthur - 1958, J. Roy - 1961, Carl - 1968; Mr. J. Wilbur Houser and Mrs. Elsie R Houser, Lampeter (Lampeter-Strasburg) James - 1963, J. William - 1966, Thomas - 1968; and Mr. Robert B. Risser and Mrs. Lois I. Risser, Lititz R1 (Warwick) R. Eugene - 1965, J. William - 1966, Thomas - 1968.

Carl E. Breneman

C. Edwin Breneman, 16-year-old son of Mr and Mrs John A Breneman, Willow Street R1, is a senior at Lampeter-Strasburg High School. He has served as Treasurer and Chaplain of the Garden Spot FFA Chapter and received the Red Rose Degree and the FFA Foundation Award in dairy farming. Breneman was in the Junior Play and is the Varsity Basketball announcer. He was awarded the Guernsey calf at Lampeter Fair in 1965.

In the past, Breneman has had projects of corn and dairy and now has 9 acres of corn, 2 dairy cows and 1 dairy heifer.

Edwin is the third brother in his family to receive the Keystone Farmer Degree.

James High

James High, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs Mahlon High, 2241 S View Rd., Lancaster, is a Senior at Lampeter - Strasburg High School. He has served as Secretary of the Garden Spot FFA Chapter and received the Queen Dairy Award, DeKalb Achievement Corn growing contest award, Crops Foundation award and the Gold Medal State Record Book Contest award. High has played both baseball and basketball for his school. He received the Red Rose Degree in 1967.

High's farming program consists of 7 dairy cows, 5 heifers and 2 acres of corn.

Barry Nickel

Barry Nickel, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nickel, Paradise R1, is a Senior at Pequea Valley High School. He is president of his chapter and has served as parliamentarian. He acquired his Red Rose Degree and received the chapter Farm

THE KEYSTONE FARMERS from Lancaster County and the school they attend are: (left to right, Row 1), Lampeter-Strasburg, Thomas E. Houser, C. Edwin Breneman, James High; Pequea Valley, Barry Nickel; (Row 2), Garden Spot, Larry L. High, Douglas C. Houck, Michael E. Smucker, M. Eugene Bren- die, (Row 3), Kenneth E. Weber, Galen

J. Yoder, Larry M. Groff; Ephrata, William M. Buchter, (Row 4), Linford Weaver, Terry L. Kauffman, Charles J. Harting; Manheim Central, John D. Nissley; (Row 5), Warwick, Howett Seiverling, Thomas Risser, Kent L. Fritz; Solanco, Gerald Phillips, (Row 6), G. Preston LeFever, Jr.; Penn Manor, Clair L. Erb, LeRoy Eshleman.

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