

Southeastern Pa. Also Has Top FFA Agribusinessman

Weaver Is Regional Star Farmer

A 21 year old Strasburg RD1 youth has been named one of the top four outstanding Future Farmers of America.

Named to receive the coveted Regional Star American Farmer Award for 1970 is Robert Lee Weaver.

Weaver has developed one of the highest producing dairy herds in Lancaster County to earn the Future Farmers of America title "Star Farmer of the North Atlantic Region".

Weaver is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan H. Weaver and is a graduate of Lampeter Strasburg High School where his vocational agriculture teacher is Galen Kopp.

As Regional Star Farmer, Weaver will receive a cash award of \$500 at the National FFA Convention at Kansas City, Mo., October 13-16.

At that time, one of the four Regional Farmers will be named Star Farmer of America and receive an additional \$500.

Star Farmer of America is generally recognized as the nation's top award for a farm youth.

Meanwhile another Southeastern Pennsylvania youth has been named Regional Star Agribusinessman of America. He is Earl M. Weaver, 21, Middletown RD1, a member of the Upper Bucks Tech FFA Chapter.

The Agribusinessman also will receive \$500 and a chance for the national title.

The awards are provided by the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., which receives its funds by annual contributions from about 500 business and in-



Robert Lee Weaver
Regional Star Farmer

Merrill Kelsay, 21, Whiteland, Ind. and Jay Brian Schauf, 19, Amity RD1, Ore.

Weaver's interest in agriculture began on his father's dairy farm. Through careful investment of the money he earned there he expanded his livestock and crop farming programs. His outstanding farming accomplishments were recognized early when he was named Star Greenhand as a high school freshman.

The home farm was not large enough to support two families so early in 1967 Weaver moved his farming operation to the rented farm which he operates today. Deciding to expand his dairy herd of three cows and two heifers, Weaver purchased 15 first-calf heifers and eight bred heifers of outstanding blood lines. He began operating the rented dairy farm during his senior year in high school.

"I was not able to afford new machinery," says Weaver, "so my

training in agricultural mechanics really paid off in helping me repair the used machinery I purchased at sales."

Setting goals play an important part in Weaver's successful farming operation.

"I believe in quality of a cow rather than quantity of cows," he says emphatically. The quality is evident in the herd average of 15,270 pounds of milk and 590 pounds of fat.

His goal is to have a herd of registered cows that average 900 pounds of fat per year. Already he has increased his herd average from 13,150 pounds of milk and 525 pounds of fat.

Weaver's reputation for breeding quality dairy cows has already spread across the nation. Recently he sold a cow which classified excellent to the Bai 20 Ranch in Fresno, California.

"I have grown to like the dairy business and plan to make it my life's work," says Weaver. He

intends to purchase his own farm when the opportunity arises.

Weaver began getting involved in FFA activities early.

During his second year in FFA he was vice president of his chapter and was a delegate to the state and National FFA conventions.

In 1966 he was president of his local chapter and president of the Lancaster County chapter.

In high school he served as sports announcer for basketball games and was one of five commencement speakers. Weaver has also been an active member in the New Providence Methodist Church.

Earl Weaver, the Agribusiness winner, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin N. Weaver of Middletown. One of 12 children, Weaver decided that it would be impossible for him to have an extensive farming program on the 160 acre family farm so he

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dustrial concerns, organizations and individuals.

Robert Lee Weaver

Selection of the Star American Farmer is based on achievement in agriculture and leadership in activities of the FFA.

The four Regional Star Farmers were picked from among the 471 members who were recommended by their respective State FFA Associations.

A committee of judges comprised of outstanding leaders in business, agriculture and education will meet in Kansas City during the afternoon of October 15 to select the top winner.

Named Regional Star Farmer along with Weaver are Albert C. Wildes, 19, Hazlehurst RD3, Ga.

We've changed



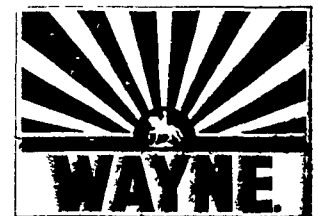
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