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Local FFA Member Competes In Land Contest in Oklahoma

Dale Groff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Groff, Ephrata, participated in the International Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma City this week.

Dale is a senior at Ephrata High School and a member of the Cloister FFA Chapter.

Groff qualified for the International Contest Wednesday and Thursday by winning first place in the Pennsylvania State FFA Land Judging Contest last summer at Penn State.

Other team members include Richard Clouser, Schuylkill Haven and Galen Holtzapple, Selinsgrove. Team coach is Lewis Ayers, agriculture teacher at Ephrata High School.



Dale Groff
In Oklahoma Contest

Hardin Announces Plans For Salute to Ag Day

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin this week announced initial plans for the nationwide "Salute to Agriculture" program at the White House May 7.

The event, announced by President Richard Nixon last week, is designed to focus national attention on the contributions made by America's farmers and agri-businessmen (See related story on page 30.)

The day-long program, at which some 60 farm leaders and their wives, rural youth and other representatives of the agricultural community will be feted, will include briefings by White House officials, Secretary Hardin and other members of the cabinet, a luncheon, a

U.S. Department of Agriculture exhibit on the White House lawn, and dinner and evening program at the White House

President Nixon will participate in the day's program which opens in the USDA, Jefferson Auditorium at mid-morning. Highlights include briefings on foreign affairs by Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, of the National Security Council, and a report on crime and violence by Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

A special women's morning program includes a visit to the National Arboretum.

President and Mrs. Nixon will serve as hosts for both the White House dinner and evening program that follows.

FFA Has First Horticulture Contest

Gary Shelly won the first annual Lancaster County FFA Tree Plant Identification Contest Thursday afternoon at Mount Joy.

Shelly is a junior in the ornamental horticulture program at Mount Joy. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shelly, Manheim RD1.

Shelly was one of eight contestants from Brownstown and Mount Joy Vo-Tech Schools.

The team winner was Mount Joy. The four members were Shelly, Jeffery Morrison, Robert Mulhollem, and Joseph Neustadter.

The FFA members identified trees and shrubs in the Mount Joy area that had been previously numbered by Bill Mitchell, Mount Joy horticulture teacher, and Jim Kerr, Brownstown horticulture teacher.

Eight FFA members from Central Chester Area Vo-tech School at Coatesville also competed among themselves, but did not share in the awards program.

Tentative plans are being made for a joint Lancaster-Chester County competition next year, Mitchell said.

In the individual competition among Lancaster County members, placings following Shelly were: Jeffery Morrison, Mount Joy, second; David Singer, Brownstown, third; Joseph Neustadter, Mount Joy, fourth; and Dale Arment, fifth.

The contest, the first of its kind locally, reflects the effort

by the new FFA chapters in the county vo-tech schools to develop FFA competition to reflect the emphasis placed on horticulture in vo-tech, Mitchell explained. This differs from the general farm program conducted by other FFA chapters in county high schools.

Horticulture students in the vo-tech schools will be conducting their own contest sometime in May, Mitchell said.

Swine Producers Elect Nestleroth

Mark Nestleroth, Manheim RD3, was re-elected president of the Lancaster County Swine Producers Association Thursday night.

James Horton, Masomic Homes, Elizabethtown, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Earl Fisher, East Earl RD1, was elected vice president to succeed John Hinkle, Strasburg RD1, who is president of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.

In other action, Nestleroth, Horton and Hinkle were named delegates to the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.

Plans were discussed for the Association's field day August 12.

The proposed testing station was also discussed. A meeting is planned in June to review rules and procedures for the facility.

Rain, But Fire Ban Remains

The storm which passed over the area early this week was a welcome relief from extremely dry conditions which have been building up.

But reports indicated the rain was only a temporary relief, good for a few days. Farmers still need a soaking rain — hopefully right after planting is completed.

The need for rain was underscored by a statement late this week by Eugene F. McNamara, chief of the division of forest protection, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, that the ban on open fires in or near forested areas will continue at least through the weekend.

McNamara said at least one-half inch of rain is needed throughout the state in order to safely rescind the ban. This is about twice as much rain as was reported this week through mid-Friday.

Bensinger Is First in Co. FFA Dairy Products

Adolph Bensinger took first place in the annual Lancaster County Dairy Products Contest last Friday at Penn Dairies, Lancaster.

Bensinger received a traveling trophy. The win also qualified him to compete in a similar contest at Penn State University June 30 - July 2.

Bensinger is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bensinger, Quarryville RD2. He is a junior in the Solanco High School FFA program.

Other FFA members in the top 10 in the contest in order of their placing were: Paul Horning, Ephrata, second; Galen Martin, Ephrata, third; Lynn Groff, New Holland, fourth.

Gary Hoffer, Manheim Central, and Robert Stauss, Ephrata, tied for fifth and sixth; the remaining four were all from Solanco as follows: Eugene Rutledge, Steve Murphy, Clyde Dearolf, and Fred Edwards.

There were 23 contestants, who tasted milk to evaluate quality, scored sedimentation,

and judged the appearance of the milk unit head.

The official judge of the con-

Penn Dairies Dr. Charles Livak present-

ed the trophy, which is awarded to the top individual on a rotating basis.



Adolph Bensinger, center, Solanco FFA Chapter, receives the traveling trophy for finishing first in the annual Lancaster County Dairy Products Contest. Presenting the trophy is Dr. Charles

Livak, director of quality control, Penn Dairies, Inc., and looking on is Arba Henry, Solanco vo-ag teacher. In the background is a dairy products promotional display at Penn Dairies' Lancaster plant.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 1

Lancaster Pony Club Horse Show, John Gibson farm, Drumore

Sunday, May 2

Be Kind to Animals Week, May 2-8.

Monday, May 3

8 p.m.—Lancaster County Poultry Association board of directors monthly meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Tuesday, May 4

4:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Vocational Agriculture Association meeting, Pequea Valley High School.

6:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Fruit Growers Association meeting, Kauffman's Orchards, near Bird-in-Hand on Route 340.

Pennsylvania Farmers Association board meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Wednesday, May 5

6:30 p.m.—County Banker's Banquet, Host Towne Motel.

7:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Thursday, May 6

8 p.m.—Lancaster County FFA meeting, Garden Spot High School, New Holland.

Friday, May 7

1 p.m.—FFA Small Engines Contest, Garden Spot High School, New Holland.

Saturday, May 8

12:30 p.m.—4-H Walk-a-Thon.