

# Twin Valley To Farm Show

Again this year Twin Valley FFA members will participate at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and receive honors at the Mid-Winter FFA Convention on Wednesday of Farm Show Week.

For the second year the chapter window exhibit will compete in the window exhibit class at the Farm Show. The exhibit, entitled "Soybeans—FOOD, FEED, FUTURE" has already won fourth place at the Kutztown Fair, second at Ephrata, and first at the Reading Fair. Last year's exhibit, entitled "Get Buzzing with Honey Bees" won fourth place at the Farm Show. We are hoping to do as well or better this year.

Two of our members, President Robert Stoltzfus and Sentinel Melvin Houck, both sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Houck of R.D.2 Elverson will exhibit swine at the farm show in the market swine class. Both seniors are currently busy preparing their swine for the show by clipping the hair from their ears and tails, washing and scrubbing them

and applying white baby powder to the white parts of their bodies. The swine are brought into the arena by the exhibitors are walked around for the judge to see the owner guiding them slightly with a stick. The swine are judged on the width and length of their bodies, their leanness, and the arch of their back, as well as their overall appearance. The better the arch of the back, the more pork chops can be cut from the carcasses.

This year the Twin Valley FFA Chapter is honored to have six of its senior members receive the Keystone Degree at the Mid-Winter FFA Convention on January 8 in the Forum Building of the Pennsylvania State Capitol complex. The members are: Robert Stoltzfus, chapter President and Melvin Houck, chapter Sentinel, both sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Houck of R.D.2 Elverson; Ronald Smoker, chapter Secretary, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smoker of R.D.2 Honey Brook; Harold Steve,

chapter Treasurer, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Yohn of R.D.1 Birdsboro; Lloyd Simmers, chapter Reporter, son of Mrs. Isabel Simmers of Honey Brook; and Geoffrey Fultz, chapter Historian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Fultz of R.D.1 Birdsboro. To earn the Keystone FFA Degree students must have demonstrated their leadership ability by holding a position of leadership in the chapter, and must have earned from their own efforts in farming or an occupational experience program and deposited in a bank or invested a minimum of \$500. The Keystone degree is conferred upon the top 3 percent of the state membership - this year to approximately 300 of the more than 11,000 FFA members in Pennsylvania.

One of the other awards presented at this convention is the honorary Keystone Degree, which is presented to the parents who have had three or more sons or daughters receive the Keystone Degree. This year Mr. and Mrs. Frank Houck, parents of Frank Stoltzfus, Melvin Houck, and Robert Stoltzfus will receive this award. Frank received the Keystone Degree in 1971 and Melvin and Robert will receive it this year.

One other Twin Valley member will be honored at this convention. Nevin E. Mast, who graduated from Twin Valley two years ago,

has remained an active member of the FFA. Last year he served as state Sentinel and this year he will receive the Pennsylvania FFA Proficiency Award for Placement in Agricultural Production. This state award is presented to the FFA member who has exhibited the most skill gained by working in some phase of agricultural production, such as on a farm, in a greenhouse, etc. The award consists of both a plaque and a monetary prize. Nevin has worked for five years on the farm of Andrew D. Stoltzfus, of R.D.1 Morgantown, where he is responsible for raising replacement stock and assisting with routine dairy farm chores and with field work.

Another Twin Valley member will be much in evidence at the convention - he will be the one that reads the names of all the Keystone Degree recipients. This member is Terry Murray, Secretary of the Pennsylvania FFA Association. Terry is the third Twin Valley member in as many years to hold one of the coveted state FFA offices.

Not to be forgotten are two eleventh grade members of the chapter, who will put their musical talents to good use at both the Farm Show and the convention. Larry Stoltzfus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Stoltzfus of R.D.1 Elverson, and Steve Bleacher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Bleacher of

R.D.3 Birdsboro, will participate in the Pennsylvania FFA Band under the direction of Dr. James Dunlop, director of the Penn State Blue Band. Larry, who plays the French horn will appear for the third year, while Steve, who plays the baritone horn, will appear for the second year. The Band, composed of 85 FFA members from across the

state, begins to practice Sunday afternoon, and provides entertainment at the Farm Show on Tuesday evening and at the convention on Wednesday afternoon.

With cooperation from the weatherman, all Twin Valley members will attend the Farm Show and the Convention on Wednesday, January 8.

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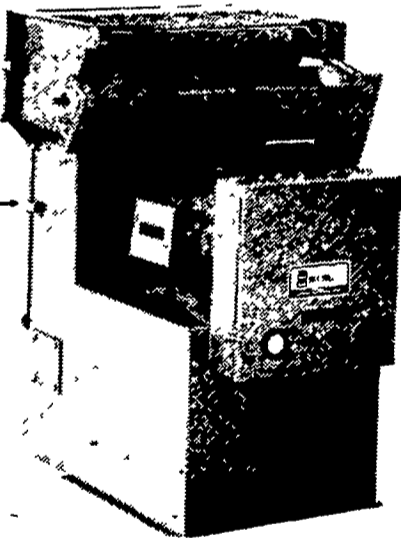
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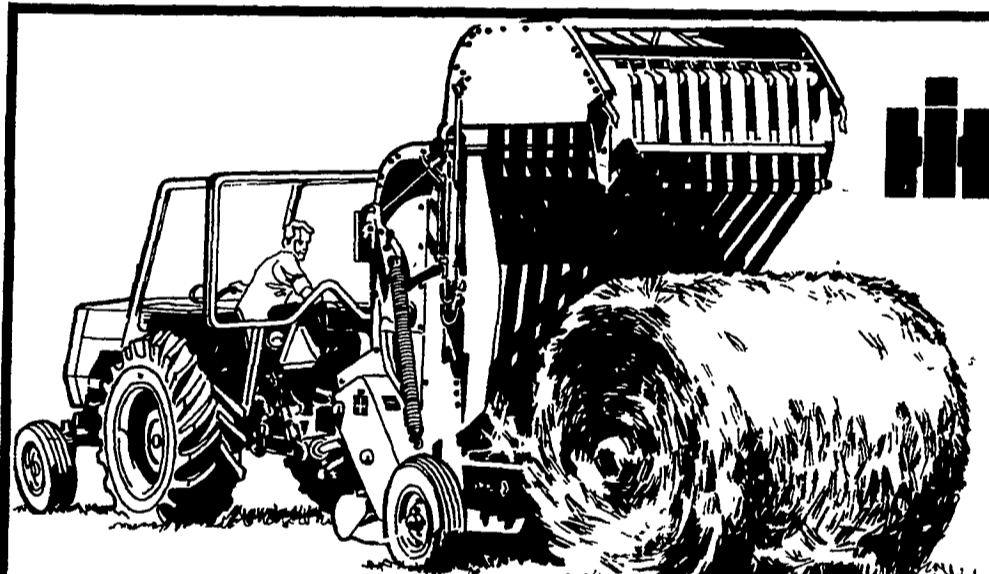
## Organic Producers Meet

Advanced Agricultural Services and Associates from Kentland, Ind., will hold a meeting at the Liberty Fire Hall in New Holland on Thursday, January 9th beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will concern conserving soil and money along with having better crops and healthier livestock by means of organic farming.

At 1:00 p.m. interested buyers from Baltimore, New York and New Jersey will be meeting with producers from the area to discuss possible markets for vegetable, soybean and herb produce. All interested producers are invited to attend. For more information contact Eli Stoltzfus, Strasburg Pike, Lancaster.

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