

Winners named

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402 points. In third place was Marvin Herr, of Holtwood R1. The level land plowing contest, won by Becker of Mt. Joy R1 with 425 points, was more closely contested. Larry Nissley of Holtwood R2 checked in just nine points behind the champ. In third place was Richard Binkley of Columbia R2.

Getting back to the land judging contest, the list of the top 10 winners reads as follows: 1. Hershey, Solanco; 2. Kreider, Solanco; 3. Greg Finney, New Holland; 4. Don Hershberger, Solanco; 5. Tony Bauder, New Holland; 6. Dan Hollinger, Ephrata; 7. Dave Keller, Manheim; 8. Ken Wiker, Solanco; 9. Jim Krantz, Solanco; and 10. Jere Rutt, Elizabethtown. A Solanco boy won the contest last year also.

Hershey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hershey, Kirkwood R1. Sixteen years old and a junior at Solanco High School, the young farmer studied soils during his sophomore year. He judged in state competition at Penn State last month, placing ninth among 163 competitors. Solanco's Richard Drumm and Tom Jackson placed first and second, respectively, in that contest.

Kreider, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Kreider, Quarryville R1, entered the contest as a novice. Although the senior-to-be studied soils in 10th grade, the soil judging contest here was his debut in that event. He is normally entered in dairy judging contests.

Students judge the soil for depth, texture, internal drainage, stoniness, slope, and recommended practices. On the latter, Hershey was asked if the Risser farmland was suitable for building, to which he replied: "Yes, but I wouldn't recommend it, I'd like to keep it as a farm."

Solanco's head of the vo-ag department, William Fredd, gave some details on how his students are taught. Soils are generally studied "off and on" throughout the Spring of the year, including the weeks of the contests. Those selected to go to major competitions are required to make four excavations on their own farms. And they do it with a shovel in



A contestant gets ready to sink his plow into the soil while judges and observers watch with a critical eye. The Conservation Field Day was held

on the Mark C. Risser farm this year, located two miles west of The Buck.



Les Hershey, left, and Gary Akers were the two top land judges.

order to really observe what's there. Earlier this year, for example, Solanco had five boys entered in state competition at Penn State. Four placed in the top ten and will go to the national contest in Oklahoma City next May. "It's a real contest of logic," Fred explained matter-of-factly.

Attended by one of the biggest crowds in years, the field day also had activities for the youngsters. The greased pig chase ended in failure, as the slippery pig wasted no time in heading for the corn field. The rooster chase for older

children wasn't a chase at all. The unnamed rooster just sat and waited to be caught. Making the claim was Dale Hess of Drumore R1.

But it was a different situation for the smaller youngsters who chased a spunky little banty all over an alfalfa field. He eluded the youngsters for several minutes and was finally caught by 5-year-old Melvin Sauder of New Holland.

All of the events were held beneath a perfect sky, as they were last year.



Lancaster County's two top plowmen are Frank Burkhardt right, and David Becker.

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