

Pa. FFA judging teams place in nationals



Members of the Pa. dairy team from Owen J. Roberts High School. They are (from left to right) David Nolan, Gregg German, and Edwin Mast, all of Pottstown. Standing is their teacher, Neal Burtner. The team placed 17th overall, winning a silver emblem.



Members of the Pa. FFA milk quality and dairy foods team were (left to right) Dan Broof, c, Hans Groff, Lamar Groff, and coach Ernest Orr, of Ephrata High School. Overall, the team took a silver medal.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Among the events that caused excitement during National FFA week held

here recently, were judging contests. These national contests are competitive activities in which young members test their ability to select top quality livestock and animal products needed for successful production and marketing. Each team in the contests have competed with other chapters in their state for the privilege of attending the national convention.

Pennsylvanians took part in several of these events. One such contest was the National Poultry Contest. The Pennsylvania state poultry team had three members, two of which were in Lancaster Farming's prime coverage area. They were Harry Boley, Garden Spot High School, New Holland; Kenneth Fox, Garden Spot High School; and Dennis Moose from Mercer High School, Mercer. These three students placed top in the state poultry contest which was held this past summer at the Penn State University.

This year the National Poultry contest included the following areas to be judged: egg grading, interior and exterior quality and egg breakouts; dressed ready to

cook broilers; dressed turkeys; identification of poultry diseases and parasites; and evaluation of live laying hens and pullets. After judging the laying hens, oral reasons were presented to a contest judge which justified the student's placings.

In the egg grading portion of the contest, students had to be able to candle eggs to determine any one of five different qualities ranging from AA quality to inedible. Exterior shell quality was determined by looking for shell irregularities, dirt, or cracks. The final portion of egg grading consisted of breaking the eggs out to determine quality which was indicated by the thickness of the white and the appearance of the yolk.

The dressed bird areas were more complicated. This year judges evaluated dressed broilers and turkeys to determine various quality grades. These grades run from A grade to no-grade or reject. Requirements such as fleshing, discoloration, torn skin, broken bones, and feathering are used to place quality grades in this class.

The disease and parasite [Continued on Page 32]



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