

Safety awards

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 and farm equipment safety inspections, promotion and sale of slow moving vehicle signs, safe corn harvest campaigns, establishment of rural fire districts, programs to illustrate safety procedures in the use of farm chemicals and many other farm and home safety projects.

The FFA Chapter Safety Award is one of three awards recognizing chapter participation in activities of national significance. It is designed to increase awareness of safety practices through classroom instruction and educational activities. Each year accidents on the farm and in the home exact a tragic toll

of death, destruction, and mutilation among rural and urban families. The FFA Safety Program is designed to make students aware of the causes of accidents and how they can be prevented.

All FFA chapters are eligible to participate in the National FFA Safety Program. Applications for the chapter award are submitted to the State FFA Association which must rank the chapters. Ten percent of the chapters submitting applications ranked as Superior Chapters at the state level are eligible for national competition. At the national level chapters are rated gold, silver, or bronze, and are presented a gold, silver or bronze spur designating their rank. The spur is to be placed on a plaque presented the first year the chapter earns recognition. The plaque is designed for spurs to be attached over a period of several years.

The FFA has approximately 8,000 local high school chapters in 49 states and Puerto Rico. Judging of the safety award applications in national competition was carried out under the supervision of agricultural specialists representing the U.S. Office of Education.

Pa. judging team

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placed in sheep judging - Tony finished fourth and Bob finished tenth.

This national contest was the largest the Lancastrians had competed. It had a total of 33 teams. According to Dean, for an eastern team to do this well in such a big contest is an exceptional feat.

"It's quite an accomplishment since the westerners eat, sleep, and live livestock," the expert judge remarked. Dean is a former Lancaster County judge and a Penn State livestock judge. He is also a June graduate. Smith credits him for the team's success.

"We must acknowledge Gary," Smith emphasized, "because he knows the newer terminology." Brubaker agreed with Smith that having a recent Penn State graduate was a definite asset to learning up-to-date reasons.

Smith also pointed out that parental support was a must for this accomplishment.

"We met once a week," he explained, "and we took the boys out of the fields, which we couldn't have done without the parents."

Needless to say, the greatest majority of the credit goes to the boys, themselves, for their efforts.

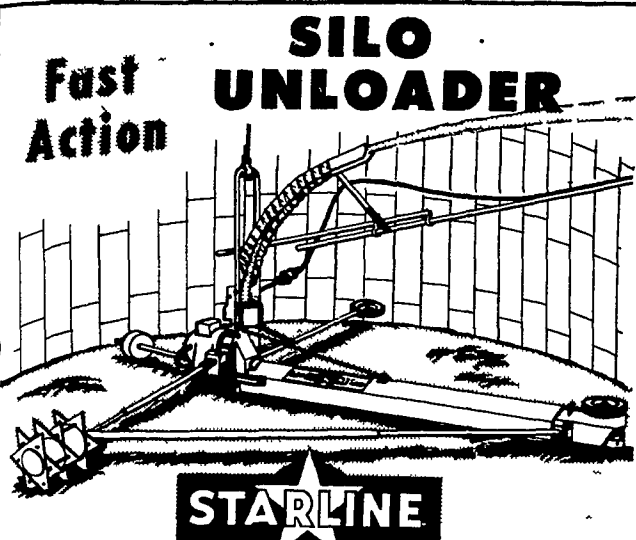
"They are good boys," says Smith. "They are eager to learn about livestock."

All have livestock projects in 4-H. Rohrer and Brubaker both have beef and sheep, Eberly has beef and swine, and Hess has beef, also.

Hess is a senior at Penn Manor and was this year's FFA Star Red Rose Farmer. In livestock shows this past season he has ranked in the top with his animals. He was also a member of the junior livestock judging team that took a state first-place award.

Eberly is an Ephrata High School sophomore, who has been a member of the champion FFA county dairy judging team. So, although he will no longer be able to compete in livestock judging now that he is a member of a state team, he will have other avenues of judging to polish and become accomplished in. This year he also showed both champion beef and swine at local fairs.

Two of the boys, Ken and Bob, will now be going onto Penn State where they will compete in inter-collegiate judging, which according to Dean is the best experience they can get to prepare themselves for their futures. For Brubaker, who is eagerly anticipating the Penn State judging experience, the past weeks have held a lot of happiness. "He received his acceptance to Penn State on Tuesday," Mrs. Brubaker explained, "and he went to nationals on Thursday."

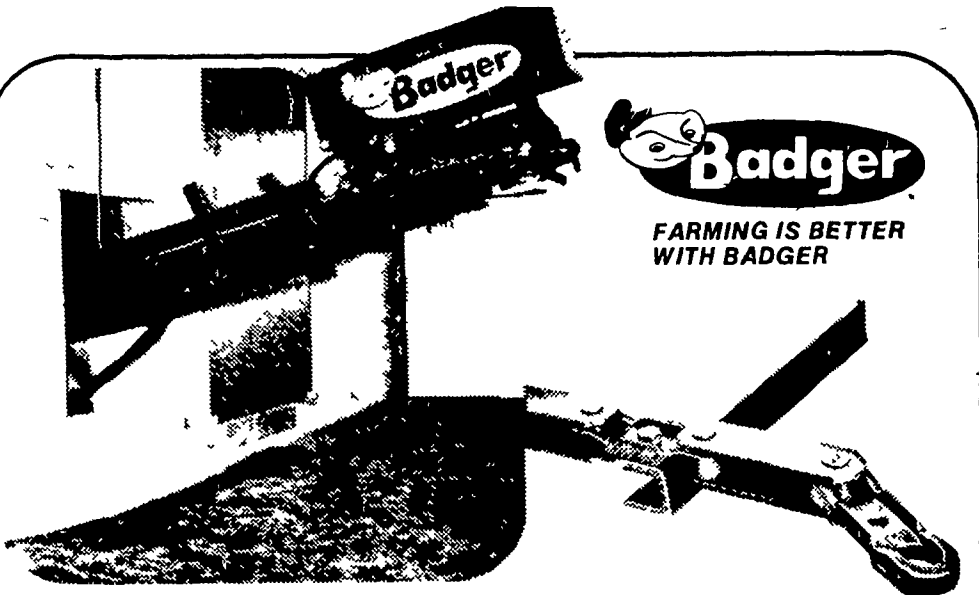


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