

FFA wildlife conservation contest winners named



Individual winners included Sandy Weaver, third place, John Zwalley, Center, first place, and Kevin Horning, second place. The bird seen with them is the Blue Heron.

NEWMANSTOWN — The first FFA Wildlife Conservation Contest in Lancaster County, possibly in the state of Pennsylvania, was held February 28 at the Middle Creek Wildlife Visitors Center, Newmanstown R1. Four schools, Ephrata, New Holland, Brownstown Vo-Tech, and Pequea Valley were represented. There were 21 contestants competing.

In the individual competition, John Zwalley, Akron, a sophomore from Ephrata High School won top honors. Kevin Horning, Denver R1, places second, and Sandy Weaver, East Earl R1, took third place.

In the team contest, Ephrata was named as the highest placing school. Second place honors went to New Holland, Brownstown Vo-Tech was third, and Pequea Valley was named fourth.

According to Carl Graybill, Ephrata Vo-ag teacher, who was in charge of the competition, the contest was rather difficult and very comprehensive. It

consisted of a 50 question test and an identification sheet where contestants had to identify ten species of wildlife in eight different areas.

There were several reasons the contest was designed, Graybill explained. First, habitat is being lost and there is a real need for people to learn the needs of wildlife. Second, there was a desire in the FFA program to get students involved with wildlife, their problems and concerns. Third, the contest presented FFA'ers a chance to become involved in a competition not farm oriented.

Those who entered the event seemed to enjoy the contest although they were a little surprised at its comprehensive nature. There was an involvement and dedication on the part of those students who took the time to try for the awards, Graybill added. They realized that there is work that needs to be done, and their eyes were opened.

The contest was made



Members of the Ephrata FFA winning team were, from left to right, Charles Bewley, John Zwalley, and Nevin Schlegel, all sophomores. Posing with them is the Pa. state bird, the Ruffed Grouse.

possible through the Middle Creek Wildlife Center and the Pa. Game Commission. Next year Graybill hopes

more county schools will enter the event and maybe the contest will even become state wide.

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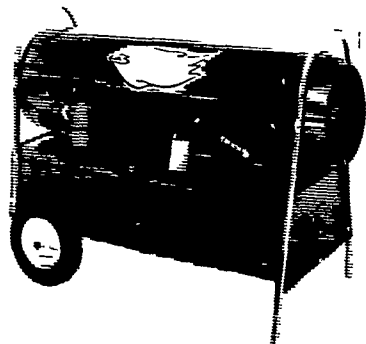
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