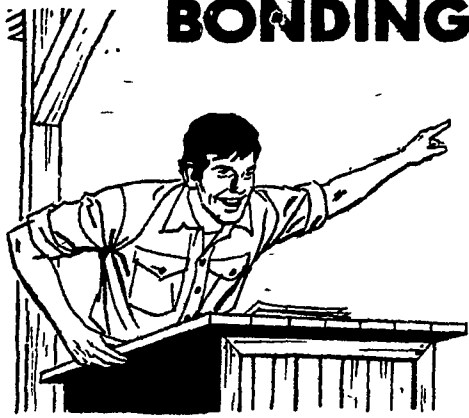


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Ken Thompson to receive honorary FFA degree

By DIETER KRIEG
OXFORD — Kenneth Thompson, a 25-year veteran of vocational agriculture teaching at Oxford Area High School, will join a select group next week when he is presented with the Honorary American Farmer Degree. It will be bestowed on him at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

The American Farmer Degree is the highest recognition given to FFA'ers and those who support the organization. The Chester Countian is one of just 85 vocational agriculture instructors from all over the United States, and one of four from Pennsylvania, who will be recognized for the honor.

According to Thompson, a good instructor "must not only know his students, but

see to it that they are busy with their FFA projects at home or have other responsibilities that are constructive.

"And I'm a firm believer in the cooperative work release program, especially for senior students, where they learn and work on the job while still under the supervision of the vo-ag instructor. A student must realize that while on this program he or she must maintain good grades with his or her other subjects", Thompson said.

Thompson was nominated for the Honorary American Farmer Degree by the Pennsylvania FFA Association and the nomination was approved by the National FFA board of directors which met in Alexandria, Va. last month.



Ken Thompson

According to statements by spokesmen at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Va., the American Farmer Degree is given annually to at least 50 of the 12,000 teachers of vocational agriculture in the nation. The Degree is awarded on the basis of points scored by a teacher for his accomplishments as a vocational agriculture instructor, FFA advisor, and as a participant in professional vocational agriculture teachers' associations.

During Thompson's 25-year tenure at Oxford High School, he has had two students who earned the American Farmer Degree and 46 who were presented with the Keystone Degree.

Teachers are awarded points for each student they supervised in earning state or national FFA awards. They also receive points for serving as officers and committee members of the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association and for their participation in national meetings of the FFA and other professional associations.

Thompson, who began his career as a teacher in 1954, used to farm in the Green Valley, near Unionville. He is a graduate of Penn State University, having majored in agricultural education, with strong emphasis on dairy and livestock courses.

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