

# Seven Delaware teens win national 4-H awards

NEWARK, Del. — Seven Delaware 4-H members have been named national winners and three have been named alternates at the National 4-H Congress this week in Chicago. This is the first year Delaware has ever had more than three national winners.

The winners are Anne Shortess, Newark, Del., Catherine Beldyk, Bear, Del., James Leathrum, Wilmington, Del., Marc Klair, Hockessin, Del., James Hukill, Harbeson, Del., Laura Newnom, Houston, Del., and Donna Hinzman, Harrington, Del. Each national winner receives a \$1000 scholarship to be applied to college education.

The three alternate winners from Delaware are Vance Phillips, Laurel, for his conservation project; Richard Green, Middletown, for his dairy project; and Beth Ridley of Dover, for her fashion revue project.

All ten of Delaware's national winners and alternates were among 20 state winners who earned trips to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago. Alternate winners in each project area are in line for scholarships if they cannot be used by the national winners.

The Cooperative Extension Service selected 273 national winners from among more than 1600 state and regional winners participating at the Congress, based on their superior accomplishments in 4-H project work, leadership and citizenship.

This year the Congress program focuses on vital national concerns of energy, jobs and economics. Young people explore these issues in assemblies and discussion groups with leaders of agriculture, education, government and public affairs.

National 4-H Congress is planned and conducted by National 4-H Council and the Cooperative Extension Service, and is made possible by the support of the business community. About 50 sponsoring businesses provide more than a quarter-million dollars in scholarship funds. They also host major entertainment and meal events, and provide state winner trips to 4-H Congress.

Delaware currently has over 100 4-H clubs, with a total membership of over 2000. County 4-H agents are located in the Cooperative Extension Service offices in Newark, Dover, and Georgetown.



LAURA NEWNOM  
Houston, Del.

Everything seems to thrive in the Newnom home in Houston, Delaware:

people, pets, plants, music, crafts, good food, and good feelings. It's from this enviable home environment that Laura Newnom emerged to win this year's national 4-H home environment award. Her prize is a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by the Sperry and Hutchinson Company, plus a trip to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

Home environment is a broad new 4-H category which seems tailor-made for a multi-talented young person like Laura. Not one, but many projects led to her selection as a national award-winner.

First of all, Home Environment includes home improvement. Laura sanded and varnished a porch addition to her family's farmhouse. She decorated a bedroom for herself, too, shopping with a sharp eye for price and quality as well as for color and design. She also helped her married sister turn a bare-bones house into a cozy home.

But even a beautifully decorated home doesn't provide an award-winning home environment unless it's also filled with good home cooking. Therefore, Laura's Home Environment project also included her home-canned and frozen garden vegetables. Cooking is another of her many talents. She's a past winner of the 4-H Reddy's Food competition.

Plants, too, contribute to a homey atmosphere. The Newnom porch abounds with them, and Laura particularly enjoys raising cactus.

Laura's parents say their daughter contributes a great deal to their home environment simply by being herself. The youngest of their four children and the only one still at home, seventeen-year-old Laura keeps the farmhouse filled with music and activity.

Now a senior, Laura has played the flute in school bands since she was in grammar school. This year she's president of the Lake Forest High School band.

With all her other talents, Laura is also an excellent student. She's a member of the National Honor Society who has also been singled out to receive the William Danforth Award for academic achievement.

Her athletic abilities are equally impressive. Last year she received her school's Most Improved Female Athlete Award. At various times she's also been named most valuable player in both softball and basketball.

Sports are such a favorite activity that Laura plans to major in physical education at either West Chester State or Salisbury State College.

JAMES LEATHRUM, JR.  
Wilmington, Del.

A 16-year-old Pike Creek Valley youth, James Leathrum, Jr., had an ambitious electric project which involved making his own set of hi-fi speakers, which was the clincher in netting Jim a \$1000 scholarship from the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

The teenager says he figured out on his own how to



build the two speakers, relying primarily on books and hi-fi magazines for technical information. He spent most of this year putting them together, building everything but the drivers himself.

This has been Leathrum's most ambitious undertaking in five years of work on an electrical project that has also included building and repairing a lot of lamps, helping to install wiring in an old barn, and giving a lot of demonstrations of his electrical skills to other 4-H'ers. This year he was the top winner in the statewide 4-H electrical contest at the Delaware State Fair.

Jim became active in 4-H when he was 11, largely because the county 4-H livestock barn is just across the fields from his home in Hills of Skyline. His first major project was raising a feeder pig in that barn, and he's raised one every year since. A guy with patience galore, he's taken a role of responsibility there, and gives a lot of help to the younger kids on their swine projects — showing them how to feed, clean, fit and show their animals.

He also donated some of his electrical talents to the barn, helping his father wire lights and switches to improve safety and visibility there at night.

A junior at Tatnall School, Leathrum is active in several sports.

Right now Jim is staying with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Phillips, in Sharpley, while his folks are away on sabbatical for a year (his father teaches at the University of Delaware).

Jim wants to study either chemical engineering or physics in college. He hopes to attend Princeton after graduation from Tatnall.



JAMES R. HUKILL,  
Harbeson, Del.

Start with one nine-year-old 4-H boy. Give him a sheep and eight years later you have a national winner in the 4-H leadership program. If you think that's unlikely, you're right. But it's nonetheless true for James R. Hukill, a 17-year-old Sussex county 4-H

member. This Cape Henlopen High School senior, son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Hukill of Harbeson, was awarded a \$1000 college scholarship at a special presentation during National 4-H Congress. Jim is a member of the Holly Mount 4-H Club.

Like so many other Sussex county 4-H members, Jim wanted to have a livestock project and since both of his older sisters started with sheep projects, it was a logical thing for him to do also. The Hukill family lacked space for large animal projects, so sheep were about the only choice and even they presented some problems. The only sheep stable available to them at the time was located some distance from their suburban development and that facility was accessible to wandering dog that could attack the sheep.

Despite the difficulties all three of the Hukill children were able to successfully raise sheep projects. Jim started that first year with a market lamb but instead of sending the ewe lamb to slaughter, he decided to keep her as the foundation stock for a purebred, poled Dorset sheep flock.

With interest and encouragement from their parents the flock developed into a top contender at area livestock shows, including the Delaware State Fair at Harrington, the Maryland State Fair at Timonium, and the Eastern Regional Livestock Exposition at Richmond. It now includes 22 head with all but three belonging to Jim.

The sheep did provide the means for the young 4-H member to develop his leadership qualities. Using knowledge he had gained in sheep husbandry, he was able to help many other Sussex and Kent county 4-H members with their sheep, providing advice, training, management know-how, and an almost expert opinion when another young shepherd was having problems. His flock was utilized in training sessions, clinics and judging practices in preparation for competition.

As president of the Sussex County 4-H Livestock Club Jim has been in charge of arranging for training sessions for other members and has given many management demonstrations.

One of his favorite projects over the past few years has been veterinary science, particularly as it relates to the care of sheep.

Jim's leadership responsibilities go beyond the livestock project. He's taken an active part in several 4-H exchange trips between Sussex county 4-H'ers and 4-H'ers in also been involved in State 4-H Camp for several years, working his way up through the ranks to the enviable position of tribal chief at next summer's gathering.

Like most 4-H'ers Jim is involved in many other activities, particularly sports. He's on the school soccer and wrestling teams, is an avid photographer providing hundreds of pictures of high school sporting events. He also likes water skiing, sailing and hunting.

The leadership winner has gained valuable farming experience by working on a nearby farm after school and during the Summer. His responsibilities have involved just about every phase of farm life including livestock care and machinery operation.

Although he's interested in farming, Jim sees little opportunity to get a start so instead he plans to attend a maritime college somewhere and hopes someday to be a Delaware River pilot like his father.



MARC KLAIR  
Hockessin, Del.

Fifteen-year-old Marc Klair has been fixing small machines for four years now, as part of a 4-H petroleum power project. In fact, he's done such a good job at this that he's won a \$1000 national scholarship from the Amoco Foundation.

The skillful young mechanic is a junior at Delcastle Technical High School, where he majors in welding. He's also starting to learn how to fix car engines for a 4-H project.

These are all talents which should stand him in good stead if he follows through with plans to pursue a career in either welding or farming — or possibly a combination of both. As Marc points out, you have to have a lot of machinery skills to operate a modern farm. You also have to have a lot of money to start one, which is why he might have to settle for a welding career, as well as farming, at least at first.

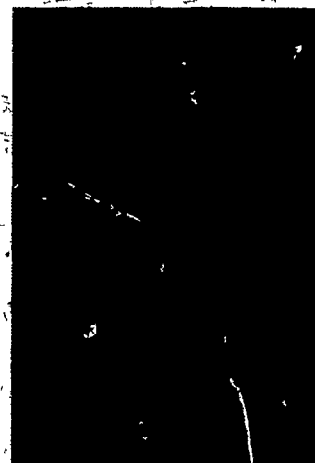
He's had a good taste of farming, helping his father run a small hog operation on their five-acre parcel of land on Old Wilmington Road near Hockessin. Right now they've got 20 pigs on the place — five sows, a boar, some piglets and a batch of market pigs. Marc's had a 4-H swine project even longer than his award-winning petroleum power project. With both interests he's spent a lot of time sharing his knowledge with fellow club members and giving demonstrations at county, state and even interstate 4-H gatherings.

A good, hard-working leader, Marc was president of his own club last year, and is an active member of the New Castle County Junior Council. This is an organization of teenage leaders who get together to help adult volunteer 4-H leaders develop and present successful programs for club members.

As a 4-H "ambassador," he's also gone out to service clubs in the community, like the Lions, to tell them how 4-H works.

Marc comes from a family that's steeped in the 4-H tradition. Both his parents

were 4-H'ers themselves as youngsters. And his two sisters are keenly involved with club work, too. His father, Richard Klair, is now the 4-H county coordinator.



ANNE SHORTESS  
Newark, Del.

Anne Shortess has achieved the goal she's been working toward since fourth grade.

The 17-year-old Newark High School senior has been named a national 4-H award winner, one of 273 outstanding teenagers in the country selected by the Cooperative Extension Service on the basis of leadership, citizenship, and 4-H project work.

Anne is a bubbly, energetic teenager who thrives on burning the candle at both ends and in the middle too. In addition to her 4-H activities, she has two part-time jobs and is a member of the marching and symphonic bands at Newark High, which consumes a big chunk of extracurricular time.

Since February she has been actively involved in Meals on Wheels, the organization which furnishes daily hot meals to senior citizens and shut-ins.

In January she hopes to begin evening classes in sign language at the Sterck School for the Hearing Impaired. Her career goal is to work either with the handicapped, or with those whose vision or hearing is impaired, so her scholarship will help pay for a degree in special education.

This friendly teenager is the daughter of Carolyn and Richard Shortess. She has two older brothers. The family lives in Newark.

Anne's award-winning 4-H activity was in the field of food conservation and safety, a natural choice for someone who enjoys cooking. She has become knowledgeable in all aspects of food preparation and preservation, and is also an expert on safety in the kitchen as well as at the outdoor barbecue.

She has presented a number of demonstrations for 4-H and other groups, including wrapping meat for the freezer, drying foods, freezing and canning techniques, making bread, and putting out kitchen grease fires.

CATHY BELDYK  
Bear, Del.

Following a family tradition of 4-H involvement, 17-year-old Cathy Beldyk of Bear, Delaware, has been named a national 4-H award winner and recipient of a \$1000 scholarship.

The Glasgow High School senior is the daughter of Marie and Richard Beldyk,

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