

# Highest FFA honor goes to Vince Arnold



Vince Arnold has ambitions of having his own lawn care and landscaping business and hopes of someday earning the American Farmer Degree. Encouraging him with his goals is his instructor, left, Gerald Strickler.

By DIETER KRIEG  
 MYERSTOWN — One of the highest honors achievable in the Pennsylvania FFA Association came to a Lebanon County family last week for the second year in a row. The honor is the distinction of being named State Star Agribusinessman. The fortunate young man to win the award is Vincent Arnold. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Arnold, Schaeferstown, and younger brother of last year's State Star Agribusinessman, Patrick Arnold.

A 1978 graduate of Eastern Lebanon County High School, Myerstown, the 18-year old Arnold was presented with the award last week during the 50th mid-Winter convention of the Pennsylvania FFA Association, held in conjunction with the 63rd annual Pennsylvania Farm Show. Ceremonies took place in the Forum of the Education Building.

Arnold is employed as a crew foreman at Schaeffer's Lawn and Garden Center, Myerstown, where he deals in landscaping, planting, pruning, seeding, and fertilization. Private homes provide the majority of business.

Asked how he felt when it was announced that he was

the state winner, Arnold said he was "surprised."

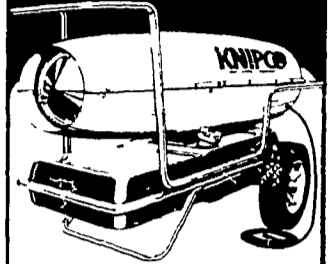
The selection didn't come as much of a surprise to his instructor, Gerald Strickler, however. "I thought he had a pretty good shot at it, considering his equity and labor income," he commented during an interview this week.

According to Strickler, who has headed the vocational agriculture department at ELCO High School for seven years, a student has to be determined to achieve his goals. Strickler has had at least one of his students win the American Farmer Degree or similar national recognition for each of the seven years he has taught at the school. "But it's the students who have to do the work and win the recognition," he repeated. "The best guidance won't help, if they themselves don't have the ambition," he affirmed.

Arnold's ambition centers around someday having his own lawn, garden, and landscaping business. He sees a bright future in it and is combining that dream with perhaps winning the American Farmer Degree someday. As a result of his recognition last week in Harrisburg, Arnold will represent Pennsylvania in September in competition

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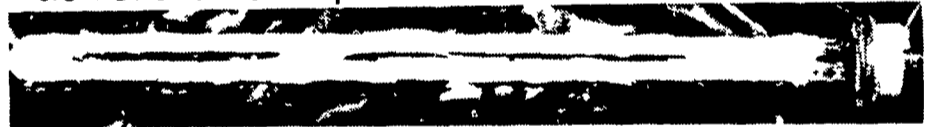
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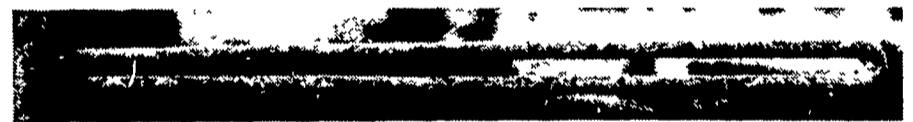
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