

# Garden Spot Young Farmers honor outstanding members

**BY CURT HARLER**  
**BLUE BALL** — The Garden Spot Young Farmers presented Ken and Anna Skiles, R2 Narvon, with their 1979 Outstanding Young Farmer Award.

The honor was one of several bestowed by the chapter at its annual banquet last Friday in Blue Ball.

The dairy achievement award was won by Robert Book, Leola, who had taken the award once before.

Three certificates of appreciation were presented. They went to Bert Baker, accountant with PFA's Farm Management and Business Analysis Service; Ron Bard, associate manager of the Lancaster Production Credit Association; and William Brubaker, president of Organic Plant Food, Inc.

And eight members were voted in as directors.

The Chapter's Outstanding Young Farmers operate Pequea Meadows Dairy Farm.

Ken Skiles, along with his son Jere, milk over 70 cows and farm 225 acres, mainly corn, hay, and soybeans.

Ken had served the Young Farmer organization as an officer and director and is a past winner of the dairy achievement award.

He also has won several corn contests.

In presenting the award, Harold Wissler, last year's winner, noted Skiles' leadership and influence on the Garden Spot chapter.

"He has done this by being willing to initiate newly developed concepts in management," Wissler said.

Among the innovations at Pequea Meadows Dairy are use of embryo transplants, artificially inseminating their own cows, use of total mixed rations, roasting of earthenbank manure storage.

areas are marked with thorough planning and research, investigating alternatives vigorously before moving ahead in the chosen management decision," Wissler said.



Certificates of appreciation were presented by Director Norm Hershey, right, to Bert Baker, Ron Bard and William Brubaker.



Anna and Ken Skiles, right, received the Outstanding Young Farmer award at the GSYF banquet held Friday night. Presenting the award is last year's winner Harold Wissler.

The Skiles also were cited for having the foresight to make their farm and farming program attractive to their son Jere and providing Jere with incentive to get advanced training and become established in the farming operation.

In addition to the plaque

presented, Skiles' name will be engraved on the Carl M. Saunders Memorial Award, kept permanently in the ag classroom.

While several other men were mentioned for their strong dairy programs, the committee felt Robert Book's dairy achievements

were too much to overlook, said last year's award winner Nelson Weaver in making the presentation.

Book increased his dairy herd average in one year by a remarkable 2000 pounds of milk and 70 pounds fat.

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New directors present at the annual meeting included, from left, John Zimmerman, East Earl; Ron Martin, New Holland; Ray Geissinger, New

Holland; Norm Hershey, Gordonville; and Naaman Stoltzfus, Kinzer. They were among eight elected at the meeting.

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