Top Lebanon FFA members honored

Lebanon County FFA Banquet was held recently in the Elco Middle School cafeteria with approximately 165 members, guests and friends present to witness the presentation of many awards to deserving members of the various chapters which make-up the Lebanon County FFA.

The toastmaster for the evening was the current county president, Glenn T. Wenger, who is a member of the Elco chapter. The unnvocation was given by Bob Bomberger, county chaplain. Bob is a member of the Cedar Crest FFA.

Following a very fine meal served to the group by Mrs. Mildred Schaeffer and her cafeteria staff, Dean Patches, a member of the Northern Lebanon chapter and county vice-president, gave a very good welcoming address. This was followed by the introduction of guests by Karen Rhode, county secretary and a member of the Lebanon County Vo-Tech FFA.

Robert Kreider was introduced by President Wenger and he brought greetings on behalf of himself and his fellow officers of the Pennsylvania Association of FFA. Bob presently serves the state association as treasurer and is also a member of the Annville-Cleona chapter. In his remarks, he related that he was very grateful for the opportunity to serve the state association as a representative from Lebanon County.

The first group of award winners was the naming of the recipients of the Lebanon County Project Book Contest. This group receives medals sponsored each year by Wenger's Farm Machinery, Inc. The winners were announced by David Wenger. Those members announced were given a gold, silver and/or bronze medal for their efforts.

President Wenger then in-troduced Clair Gerberich, of Lebanon County Soil Conservation Service. Gerberich presented the awards to those individuals who excelled in the recently conducted county Conservation Speaking Contest. First place winner, Lee Gehman of the Northern Lebanon chapter, was given an engraved

MYERSTOWN - The annual pen and pencil holder and a pack of Blue Spruce pine seedlings. The following were also presented a pack of Blue Spruce seedlings. Irene Brown, 2nd place; Todd Propst, 3rd place; and Kırk Juliani, 4th place.

Paul Maulfair, a member of the Lebanon County Farmers Association, presented the annual creed contest awards. First place went to Marlin Deaven of Northern Lebanon. The second and third place winners were also recognized and given a check. After the presentation, Marlin gave the FFA creed.

Gary Smith, a member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, presented Ray Comasta, of the Northern Lebanon chapter, the top conservation award for his efforts in the Wildlife Conservation area.

The 1980 Production Credit were Association awards presented by local PCA representative, James Grosh. Ed Keggerreis, of the Elco chapter, was given a cash award and certificate for having the best kept record book in the Lancaster-Lebanon district this past year. Also, Dean Patches, of the Northern Lebanon chapter, was given a plaque and cash award for having the best kept record book in the entire state of Pennsylvania in 1980.

The Lebanon County FFA Farmer Degrees were then presented by Mike Bare, 2nd Vicepresident and Daryl Balmer, county treasurer The degree recipients were Patti Heilinger, Joel Fahnestock, Ken Erb, Robert Hogeland, and Donna Rabold from Elco; Annville-Cleona - Melody Keller, Brian Sell, Donald Bare, Dawn Dohner, and Brian Mc-Featers; Cedar Crest - Heidi Peiffer, Richard Houser, Chris Patches and Dale Zuck; Northern Lebanon - Doug Blauch, Mark C. Brehm, Todd Propst, Robert Reinbold and Rodney Behney; Lebanon Co. Vo-Tech - Jane Stump, Kathı Zohn and Clarence C. Backert.

Members of the Northern Lebanon FFA conducted the Honorary Lebanon County Farmer Degree Ceremony. This degree was conferred upon Arthur Brandt, Ralph Boyer, Adam

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Brandt, Warren Mathias and Mrs. Margaret Wenger. This recognition is given to those people who have made some type of contribution to the FFA program in Lebanon County during 1980. These people were nominated by the various chapters in the county and voted upon by the current officer team.

Harvey A. Smith, Area Vocational Education Consultant, presented the two top awards conferred by the Lebanon County FFA. This is the naming of the County Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman for the year 1980. The 1980 Lebanon County Star Farmer is Dean Patches of the Northern Lebanon chapter and the 1980 Lebanon County Star Agribusinessman is Glenn T. Wenger of the Elco chapter. Other candidates for the Star Farmer award were John Kline, of Elco; Wendy Weller, of the Vo-Tech chapter; Jeff Riegel, of Annville-Cleona; and Steve Wenger, of Cedar Crest. Other candidates for the Star Agribusinessman award were Karen Rhode, from the Vo-Tech School; and Kerry Morton, of Annville-Cleona.

The program was concluded with the showing of slides of activities conducted by the various

county FFA chapters This was followed by a few brief closing remarks by President Wenger and the official closing ceremonies conducted by the county officers.

The 1980-81 Lebanon County FFA Officers are President, Glenn T. Wenger -of Elco; Vice-president Dean Patches of Northern Lebanon; 2nd Vice-president, Mike Bare of Northern Lebanon; Secretary, Karen Rhode of the Lebanon Co. Vo-Tech; Treasurer -Daryl Balmer of Annville-Cleona; Sentinel, Jeff Reigel of Annville-Cleona; Reporter, John Kline of

Elco; Chaplain, Bob Bomberger of Cedar Crest; Parliamentarian, Mark Patches of Cedar Crest; and Historian, Wendy Weller of the Lebanon Co. Vo-Tech.

The advisory committee includes Harvey A. Smith, Area Consultant; and the following FFA Advisors: Gerald Strickler, Elco and current county advisor; J. Ray Bickel, Northern Lebanon; G. Lowell Morton, Annville-Cleona; Harold Berkheiser, Cedar Crest; and Donald Snively, Lebanon County Vo-Tech.

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