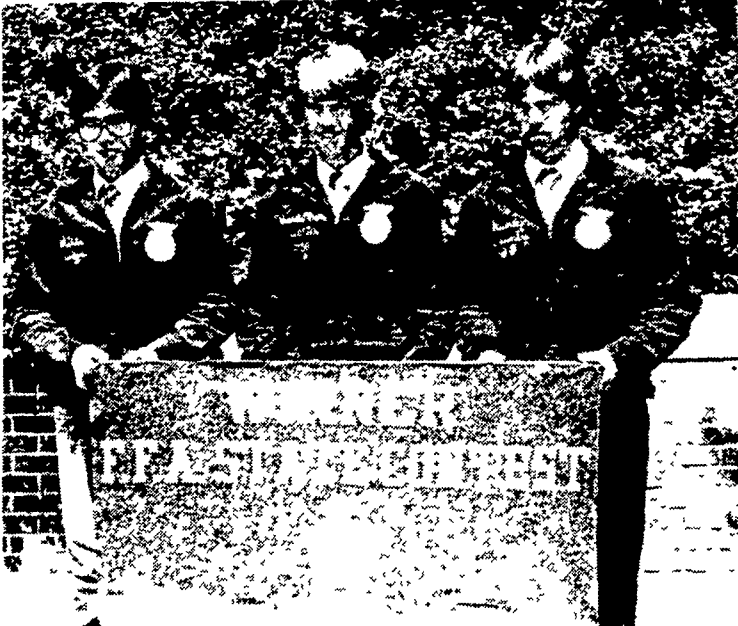


Hershberger heads FFA; many area winners



Extemporaneous Public Speaking winners in FFA competition are, from the left, Barry L. Geib, Manheim Central, Lancaster County; Amy Winklosky, Derry High, Westmoreland County; and Nathan Barber, Grove City, Mercer County.



Trio of Lancaster County winners in the Dairy Foods Contest at FFA week include, from the left, Merle Martin, Cloister Chapter, Ephrata; J. Kevin Noll and Randy Greenly, both of Elizabethtown.



FFA Princess winner in competition at Penn State is Brenda Walter, of Red Lion High School, York County.

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
UNIVERSITY PARK — "This has been my dream since receiving my Greenhand Degree."

With these words, Doug Hershberger, of the Solanco FFA, Lancaster County, accepted the reins as the new president of the Pennsylvania Association of Future Farmers of America on the Penn State campus on Thursday.

His election as head of the state organization for the coming year was just one of many moments of triumph and achievement for area FFA'ers as the 53rd summer convention and activities week competition came to a close.

Other new top state officers include Glenn Wenger, of the Elco Chapter, Lebanon County, vice-president; Dean Patches, Northern Lebanon Chapter, Lebanon County, secretary; Kevin Devine, Grassland Chapter, New Holland, Lancaster County, treasurer; Jeffrey H. Stoltzfus, Octorara Chapter, Chester County, Eastern Region vice-president; and Kent Heffner, of Blue Mountain Chapter, Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, as chaplain.

When the winners of the various contests were called to the stage of the Eisenhower Auditorium, area chapter members also were quite prominent in the processions.

Highlights of the contest results show:

Lancaster County chapters captured some 26 gold awards, including seven first-place finishes. These seven top placings came in extemporaneous public speaking, a sweep of dairy foods, near sweeps in poultry and ag mechanics, wildlife, land judging and dairy cattle judging.

Chapter members in Lebanon County took four golds, including a first in the interview competition.

York County captured six golds, along with the selection of Brenda Walter, of Red Lion, as the new princess.

Chester County walked off with seven golds, including firsts in dairy showmanship and livestock judging.

Berks County contestants had five golds, with a first in public speaking.

When Hershberger, son of Robert and Martha Hershberger, R4, Quarryville, gave his acceptance speech as the new FFA president, it marked a return of that office to Lancaster County after a five-year absence. And curiously it was another, Solanco student, Randy Ranck, who last held it in 1976-77.

Accepting the responsibilities and challenges of the office, Hershberger offered his thanks for help in permitting him to stand before the near 1,800 FFA audience to his family, friends and fellow chapter members.

Quoting extensively from the song, "Together," he said that "together, we'll go on forever to continue to build and strengthen the FFA organization."

A number of chapters were honored as initial contributors toward the fund to build the proposed new ag arena at Penn State. These chapters have already contributed about \$6,200 toward an overall state FFA goal of \$30,000. It's hoped the overall goal can be reached by the mid-winter convention in January.

Among these initial contributing chapters were Owen J. Roberts, Chester County; Cloister Chapter, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and the Montgomery County AVTS.

In the contests, a first for the statewide FFA competition was believed to have been achieved by a trip of competitors from Indiana County.

The top three finishers in the agronomy contest were two brothers and a sister from the Marion Center Chapter. The

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Penn Manor team, which nosed out runner-up Ephrata team by three points in Dairy Cattle Judging, includes, from the left, Jeff Burkholder, Karen Long and Brian Ressler.



Winners in the FFA Interview Contest at Penn State this week were, from the left, Heidi Peiffer, Cedar Crest, Lebanon County; Diane Stoltzfus, Twin Valley, Berks County; and Ginger Sowers, Annville-Cleona, Lebanon County.



The runner-up Ephrata team from Lancaster County in Dairy Cattle judging includes, from the left, Jeff Martin, Dave Smith and Jim Bollinger.