

# Youthful dairyman is Pa. FFA Star Farmer

**FARM SHOW** — Three Commonwealth counties can lay partial claim to this year's Pennsylvania FFA Star Farmer, Tom Snyder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder. Tom began his FFA career and earned his Greenhand Degree at Octorara High School in Chester County.

participated in FFA as a tuition vo-ag student at Twin Valley High School, Berks County.

Following graduation from Twin Valley, Tom moved with his family to Somerset County, where already at 19 he is running his own Holstein dairy operation.

Wednesday in the Forum Building, Tom — as the Eastern



Washing milking units is a regular chore for Pa. FFA Star Farmer Tom Snyder.



Tom Snyder

Regional Star Farmer — was selected as the top agricultural achiever among the approximate 320 Future Farmers of America who received their Keystone Degree.

Instrumental in his selection was his entrance into dairy farming with a Holstein herd purchased through a special Farmers Home Administration loan program for FFA and 4-H members who want to get started in farming.

Operating on a rented farm owned by Guy Spoerling, R5, Somerset, Tom's herd has a DHIA production average of 16,590 pounds of milk and 609 pounds of butterfat for 48 head.

During the past season, he cropped 70 acres of corn, 50 acres of hay and 30 acres of rye, plus pastureland.

And all this in approximately a year and a half since graduation from high school.

The Snyder family moved to the Somerset area due to the tight



Tom Snyder weighs grain ration based on production for each of his cows.

availability of farmland and its higher price in the eastern part of the state.

Tom's father, Arthur, had served as farm manager in the Chester County area and now operates a Mormon Church Farm.

As a first-year vo-ag student at Octorara High, Tom attended dairy field day and participated in the judging contest, assisted with field corn yield checks and took part in BOAC projects.

In his FFA career at Twin Valley, Tom participated in the Berks County volleyball and basketball tournaments, land judging contest, dairy cattle judging at both the Kutztown and Allentown Fairs, the county agronomy contest, local tractor

driving contest, county project book contest and extemporaneous speaking.

He also attended the summer FFA convention at Penn State, where he participated in the dairy cattle judging contest, as well as rifle range competition, where he earned a silver medal.

Tom plans to continue to improve and expand his herd, with the eventual goal of owning his own farm.

The State FFA Awards Program was held in the Forum Building Wednesday afternoon and included numerous honorary awards to persons who have been instrumental in their support of the Future Farmers of America.

## Corn Growers Assn. officers



New officers of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association, co-sponsors of the Five-Acre Corn Club program, include, seated from the left, Joseph McGahon, Penn State Extension agronomist; Arnold G. Lueck, Lancaster County, past president; and Walter Johnson, Centre County, secretary-treasurer; and, standing from the left, Leon Hull, York

County, president; and directors, John Weidman, Lancaster County; John Schwartz Sr., Adams County; Kenneth Rice, Centre County; Charles Hess, York County; Herman Espy, Huntingdon County; John Shearer, Franklin County; and John Smith, York County.

## Improvements to benefit youth groups

**HARRISBURG** — The Pennsylvania State Farm Products Show Commission voted to seek recommendations for improvements to benefit 4-H, Future Farmers of America and Future Homemakers of America programs and facilities at the Farm Show Complex.

The Commission voted unanimously to have a committee

of state leaders of 4-H, FFA and FHA meet with Farm Director Horace Mann to consider proposals which would be presented to the full Commission for approval. State Agricultural Secretary Penrose Hollowell noted that a commitment had been made with 4-H and FFA to go forward with program improvements.

"The Tammy Wynette concert

Monday night was the first of a series of events which will be used to generate funds to support these projects," Hollowell said. "We have made the commitment to our farm youth programs for the Farm Show and will continue our work to insure the future of these activities which are so important to Pennsylvania agriculture's growth," Hollowell said.

## Tuckey gets agribusiness honor

**FARM SHOW** — Clay C. Tuckey Jr., of the Apple City Chapter at Biglerville High School, was named Pa. FFA Star Agribusinessperson on Wednesday.

Tuckey combined on-farm work experience with extensive ag mechanics projects to win the coveted Future Farmers of America honor at the Midwinter Convention in the Forum Building.

He represented the southern region in the competition.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Tuckey Sr., R2, Biglerville, Clay had work experience programs on the Charles Lobaugh crop and swine farm and the Robert Myers dairy farm.

He also had field corn projects.

In addition to serving on numerous FFA committees, he served as Chapter Reporter. He was also named Star Chapter Farmer by the Apple City unit.

His gold awards in state competition included work experience and ag mechanics, as well as being a member of the third-place team in the ag mechanics-electrical contest at the Eastern States Expo.

At Biglerville High, he was a member of the track team and is now a member of the Upper Adams Young Farmers.

He plans to attend trade school to study diesel mechanics and then follow a career in that field.



Clay C. Tuckey Jr.

