

## Pa. FFA names Kline tops in dairy proficiency

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
**REISTVILLE** — The past year has been a busy and eventful one for John Kline, youthful Lebanon County dairyman

Last year at about this time, he had just finished up his senior year in ELCO FFA and was in the beginning stages of converting a general purpose farm into a dairy operation.

And now, he's not only a fulltime dairy farm operator, but he's been selected as being tops in dairy proficiency among Future Farmers of America members throughout the state.

"John's first-place dairy award was the highest of three statewide proficiency honors we've received," Gerald Strickler, ELCO FFA advisor, explained

"He has done an outstanding job in dairy projects ever since his first heifer in eighth grade and this statewide honor is well deserved."

Other statewide ELCO proficiency honors received by the chapter in the first time it has entered into the statewide competition with FFA'ers throughout Pennsylvania included a second for Joel Fahnestock in ag mechanics and a third for Ed Kegerais in swine production.

As the top dairy winner, Kline will now move into regional and possibly national proficiency competition.

In addition to steadily expanding his dairy projects during his FFA career at Eastern Lebanon County High School, he was active in a number of chapter activities and received several local honors. He was chapter dairy proficiency winner for two years and was named both Star Greenhand and Star Chapter Farmer as he progressed through the FFA program. A Keystone Degree holder, he participated in parliamentary procedure and numerous dairy judging contests.

From his first heifer in eighth grade, his dairy project grew to nine head in his senior year. Of the milking string of 61 in the operation along Ramona Road, near Reistville, Kline currently owns 10 cows and 26 heifers.

Milking began Sept. 14 with 32 head and the herd size has been increased gradually to its present 61. Cousin Ken Heisey, who also just completed high school last

year, primarily handles the milking

"Individual production is averaging about 65 lbs a day," Kline said

"We had five cows milking over 100 lbs during the past month, with the top one peaking at 115 lbs"

The guiding philosophy of Kline's feeding program is based on individual attention and personal familiarity with many of the animals out of the family herd that he has grown up with

"I feed according to three main factors," Kline explained

"They include the level of milk production of each animal, body size and stage of lactation"

The ration includes silage, high moisture corn and hay

"Right now, I want to work to improve the butterfat," Kline said.

The amount of hay is being increased from about 15 to 20 lbs a day."

While the majority of the herd is home-grown, Kline has purchased a few additions to the string. Three head — an Elevation daughter, a Job daughter and a Conductor heifer — were purchased at the Hubie Miller dispersal at Myerstown in March. A few others were found at Maryland dispersals.

Older brother, Leon, a Carnation Genetics distributor, helps with the breeding program

"The top two-year-old has peaked at 80 lbs and many are milking around 70 lbs," Kline said

"These are the first of the Carnation-bred heifers milking in the string and the benefits of the breeding program are already beginning to show"

One of Kline's goals for the near future is taking an A-1 technician course. Gradual additional improvements to the farm will continue. Of initial concern is a farm shop.

Yes, the past year has been a busy and eventful one for John Kline.

That all-important transition from handling an FFA dairy project to becoming a full-time dairy operator has been taken in stride by the Lebanon County youth.

Despite his relatively young years, it's easy to see why he could.



Herd records for milking string of 61 are examined by Gerald Strickler, left, FFA advisor for ELCO Chapter, and John Kline, who has made transition from dairy project to fulltime

operator during the past year. The Lebanon County youth has been named the first-place winner in dairy proficiency among FFA'ers throughout the state.

With a background of increasing FFA achievement and growing responsibility in the family dairy

operation, going out on his own was a natural step.

"You don't look back," he said. "We're just looking ahead."

"Once you make that decision,

## FFA Week opens June 15

**UNIVERSITY PARK** — Some 1800 rural youth of Pennsylvania will take part in the annual FFA Activities Week June 15 to 17 at Penn State. This year's theme will be, "Growing for America."

Highlighting the annual event will be 24 state FFA contests in which members demonstrate their agricultural skills and abilities. New state officers will be announced on June 17.

Co-chairman for FFA Activities Week are Edgar P. Yoder of the Department of Agricultural Education at Penn State and Charles F. Lebo of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg.

Participants will be involved in a

variety of educational demonstrations and contests. The Farm Management contest will involve the use of a microcomputer. Special tours will include visits to a modern dairy farm where an embryo transplant will be performed. The FFA members will also have an opportunity to discuss agricultural careers and college programs with personnel from the College of Agriculture.

Doug T. Hershberger, State FFA President from the Solanco Chapter at Quarryville, and ten fellow officers will preside over the daily business meetings and general sessions of the Pennsylvania Association of FFA. The State FFA Band, directed by Ned

C. Deihl of Penn State, will present concerts at general sessions each day.

FFA Activities Week will be sponsored jointly by the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education in Penn State's College of Agriculture, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg.

Contest winners will be announced at the final general session on June 17 in Eisenhower Auditorium. Awards will include expense-paid trips to national and regional FFA contests. Presenting the awards will be Charles F. Lebo, State Advisor of the Pennsylvania FFA, from Harrisburg.

## Strasburg Railroad celebrates 150th birthday

**STRASBURG** — Come help celebrate Strasburg Railroad's 150th birthday, June 5 and 6.

Railroad buffs from all over the United States will flock to the Red Caboose Lodge and the Strasburg Railroad properties for a weekend of Special Steam events and a two acre Railroadiana and Toy Train Flea Market and show, here in Strasburg, Lancaster County.

It all starts Saturday, June 5, at 9 when railroad antiques such as bells, whistles, lanterns, railroad china dining and car appointments from a bygone era will be sold at auction, one item per minute for 8 hours.

In the big hospitality tent, operating train displays and exhibits plus thousands of toys and trains will be offered for sale or trade.

To add to the excitement, Strasburg's special steam locomotives will pass the exhibit area every 15 minutes. Strasburg R.R. is the oldest inland railroad, celebrating their 150th birthday since their 1832 charter as a railroad

A 1929 Antique Station Hack and Stanley Steamer will shuttle people from Strasburg railroad to the two-acre flea market every 30 minutes. Old fashion pop corn machines, refreshments, and band organs, and calliope will operate both days.

Saturday night railroad movies,



door prizes, and an all you can eat feast will be served in two 80 ton Victorian Dining coaches, at the Red Caboose Lodge. There will be two servings, 5:30 and 7 by

reservation. Don't miss this gala celebration in Strasburg. Free souvenir with each \$2 admission, good for both days. Children under 10 years free.



Individual attention and familiarity with each animal are hallmarks of John Kline's dairy management program.

