

2700 gather in Forum for FFA convention

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

HARRISBURG — Some 2700 Future Farmers of America, parents, friends and guests gathered in the Forum on Wednesday to honor the nearly 300 of the best of the Blue and Gold from throughout the state who received their coveted Keystone Degree.

And out of the ranks of the Keystoneers emerged two who were selected as being tops in production agriculture and agribusiness pursuits conducted as part of their FFA and vo-ag programs.

State Star Farmer for 1984 is John Hauck, of the Mifflinburg Chapter, son of Mrs. Phyllis Hauck, Star Route, New Berlin

And, State Star Agribusiness person for 1984 is Jamie L. Frey, of the Solanco Chapter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Frey, R2 Quarryville.

The naming of the "Stars," who will now go on to compete for regional star honors next September, highlighted the program of the 55th Mid-Winter Convention

of the Pennsylvania FFA Association, which also included the presentation of parent awards, citations to businesses and Honorary Keystone Degrees, addresses by Jerry C. Olson, of the Pa. Dept. of Education; and Penrose Hallowell, ag secretary; and selections by the State FFA Band under the direction of Ned Diehl, of Penn State.

A senior at Mifflinburg High School, Hauck is in partnership with his uncle in a farming operation that includes 112 dairy animals, 70 acres of corn, 120 acres of hay and 20 acres of oats. He is both president of his local chapter and the SUN Area FFA.

A senior at Solanco Area High School, Jamie Frey is the general manager and one-third partner in Jamie's Greenhouse -- an operation that includes three greenhouses, nursery stock and flowering plants. She is president of the Solanco Chapter and secretary of the Lancaster County FFA



Other regional star farmers included Robert J. Ratvasky, of the Wilmington Area Chapter; Douglas Smith, of the Northern Bedford Chapter, and Harold Dietrich Jr., of the Hamburg Area Chapter.

Other regional star agribusiness persons included Shawn Walters, of the Mifflinburg Chapter; John R. Hostettler, of the Somerset Chapter; and Ron Jarvis, of the Conewago-New Oxford Chapter

Parents who were honored for having three or more Keystone Farmer sons or daughters:

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Barker, R1 Ulysses; Mr. and Mrs. Elam Beiler, R2 Mifflinburg; Mr and Mrs. Preston L. Bankert, R3 Red Lion; Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Biddle, R1 Williamsburg; Mr and Mrs. James Smith, R1 Roaring Spring; Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smith, R1 Roaring Spring; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Clapper, R1 New Enterprise; Mr. and Mrs. T. Edward Johnson, Airville.

Also, Mr and Mrs. John N. Buchowski, R3 Volant; Mr and Mrs. Thomas Hughes, Derry; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Winklosky, R2 Derry; Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Pfautz, R1 Stevens; John E. Weaver, Myerstown; and Mr. and Mrs. Harlan R. Wessner, New Tripoli.

Citation awards to businesses who have shown continued support of the FFA went to Agway, Inc., Conestoga Animal Hospital; Country Market Nursery Florist, Dunkle and Grieb Tnc, Carlisle Branch of the York Farm Credit Service, Markle's Farm Service, New Holland Sales Stables, Snyder Ford Sales, Summit Trailer, Inc., Van Druff Tractor and Implement Sales and Wineland Implement, Inc

In addition, 40 individuals received their Honorary Keystone Farmer Degree

Recognized on the program were the state's 1983 proficiency winners who finished on top in the various categories of judging at the Penn State Activities Week last June. Singled out for extra honors was Darl Balmer, of the Little Dutchmen Chapter at Anville-Cleona High School, who went on to become Eastern Regional and the only National Proficiency winner in Placement in Ag Production

Assisted by her fellow state officers, Carolyn Witmer, of the Grassland Chapter at Eastern Lancaster County High School, New Holland, conducted the convention program in the spacious Forum

Carolyn called on her fellow FFA'ers to open their eyes, arms and hearts to the world around them and "to the opportunities that are available to you through FFA and throughout life "

From the opening strains of the FFA Band to the traditional closing ceremonies, the Mid-Winter Convention was a fast-paced program of honoring the best in the Blue and Gold



Daryl Balmer, right, of the Little Dutchmen Chapter at Anville-Cleona High School, is congratulated by David Blank, State FFA treasurer, for attaining honor as the only National Proficiency winner from Pennsylvania.



Jamie Frey, of the Solanco Chapter, 1984 Star Agribusiness Person.



John Hauck, of the Mifflinburg Chapter, 1984 Star Farmer.

Please help support your high school's Vocational Agriculture-FFA program!



Future Farmers of America

