

Lehigh County FFA cites ag heritage, top members

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

SCHNECKSVILLE — More than 325 members, parents and guests of the Lehigh County FFA Chapter gathered last Saturday to observe a century of ag heritage in the county and celebrate the 13th annual Parent-Member Banquet of the chapter.

The banquet's theme of 100 years of Agriculture in Lehigh County featured signs comparing prices received by farmers in 1870 with those in 1982. Split rail fences and old-time equipment helped carry out the theme.

Featured in the banquet program were addresses by several current and past state FFA officers and the presentation of awards to chapter members who excelled in various areas during the past year.

Heading the list of major award winners were:

—Bonnie Wessner, of Northwestern, who received the Star Chapter Farmer Award and also was presented the DeKalb Award

for leadership and scholarship. She was also honored for her proficiency in diversified livestock projects and for receiving a gold medal for being second in the state project book competition for Supervised Occupational Experience On-Farm.

—Todd Bennecoff, also of Northwestern, was named the Star Greenhand and received the Lehigh County Production Credit Award for the best records keeping. He also earned a State Gold Medal for his project book on three enterprises and was proficiency winner in beef and swine production.

—Joshua Grim, of Parkland, was selected for the Green Thumb Award for outstanding achievement in horticulture. Also, he was the proficiency winner in ornamental horticulture and sheep production.

Other proficiency winners and their categories include Tom Afflerbach, ag mechanics; Daniel Hartman, crop production; Jane



Ron Martin, Pa. Eastern Regional FFA Vice President, center, is shown with two of the top award winners at Lehigh County FFA Chapter banquet, Todd Bennecoff, left, Star Greenhand; and Joshua Grim, winner of the Green Thumb award.



Dave Brannan, president of the Lehigh County FFA, accepted area BOAC award to honor chapter work in the community.

Snyder, floriculture; John Shorter, fruit and vegetable production; Sally Mason, horse production; Kevin Blose, turf and landscape; Charles Eckert, landscape design; Amy Ferguson, tree and turf and Kim Miller, future florist.

Michael Koehler was also honored for his silver medal state project book in sheep breeding.

Other award winners:

Keystone Degree — Bonnie Wessner and Kevin Blose. In 13 years, the chapter has had 41 Keystone Farmers.

Chapter Farmer Degrees — Laura Romig, James Yeager, Sally Mason, Steve Sorrentino, Cathy Barlip, Rochelle Burns, Kristin Dorney, Ellen Rockel, Daniel Hartman, Kipp Shafer, Deborah Heintzelman, Denyelle Berghold, Joshua Grim, John Shorter, Todd Bennecoff and Tracy Frantz.

Certificates of Appreciation — Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brannan, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Wessner, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Grim, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Blose, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wetherhold, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Sorrentino, Mr. and Mrs.



Star Chapter Farmer and DeKalb winner at Lehigh County FFA banquet is Bonnie Wessner, left, shown with Carolyn Witmer, State president.

Terry Bennecoff, John Shorter, Robert Borst, Ernie Hoffman, Vicki Miller and Mrs. Ruth Trinkle.

Honorary Chapter Farmer Degrees — Frank Farrell, State Sen. Guy Kratzer, Rep. Roy Af-

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Elizabethtown FFA regains meats judging title

LANCASTER — Elizabethtown FFA Chapter regained the Lancaster County meats judging team title in competition conducted at Kunzler and Co., Inc. last Saturday.

The E-Town FFA'ers took the title back from the Manor Chapter,

which won it last year. Elizabethtown had held the crown the previous two years.

Top individual in the judging competition among 28 FFA members from six county high schools was Crystal Kreider, of Manor Chapter. Competing

schools were Penn Manor, Warwick, Ephrata, Elizabethtown, Manheim and Eastern Lancaster County.

Second through fourth placings among individuals went to the Elizabethtown trio to Greg Musser, Phil Fullerton and Cassie

Stowe. Fifth through 10th placings included Brian Hurst, Eastern Lancaster County; John Spangler, Warwick; Kevin Martin, Eastern Lancaster County; Steve Heisey, Elizabethtown; Rod Nissley, Penn Manor; and Jere Hoover, Penn Manor.

Finishing behind Elizabethtown

in the team standings were Eastern Lancaster County, Penn Manor and Manheim.

Competition included identification of 25 retail cuts of pork, beef and lamb, placing hams and ribs and judging five sides of beef for quality and yield grade.



Among top individuals in the Lancaster County FFA meats judging contest are, from the left, Phil Fullerton, Elizabethtown; Cassie Stowe, Elizabethtown; Steve Heisey, Elizabethtown; Greg Musser, Elizabethtown; Crystal Kreider, Penn Manor; John Spangler, Warwick; Jere Hoover, Penn Manor; and Rod Nissley, Penn Manor.



Jerr Gregg, of Kunzler and Co., Inc., awards first-place Lancaster County meats judging trophy to Elizabethtown team, from the left, Greg Musser, Phil Fullerton and Cassie Stowe.