

Balmer takes European trip

ANNVILLE — Daryl Balmer, of the Little Dutchmen FFA Chapter at Anville-Cleona High School, Lebanon County, is among the 22 national proficiency winners who are now participating in an 18-day travel seminar to Europe.

Balmer was the national winner in Placement in Agricultural Production.

The European seminar includes staying with farm families in Denmark and Holland, with visits to the American Embassy and Palace of Versailles in France, sight-seeing and visiting with the West European Director of the American Soybean Association in Belgium, stopping at the famous Flower Auction at Alsmeer in

Holland, visiting the manufacturing and assembly plant of Claas OHG, makers of harvesting equipment and the German Agricultural Society Show in West Germany.

Each student is sponsored on his or her winning trip by a business or industry in the particular proficiency category. Balmer's sponsors are the Hesston Corp. and The Shell Companies Foundation.

Prior to leaving for Europe, the group spent a day in Washington, D.C., including meeting Sec. of Agriculture John Block and a Capitol Hill breakfast with congressmen, senators and sponsors. The group returns on Thursday.



New Lancaster County FFA officers

A new officer team has been elected to direct the activities of the Lancaster County Red Rose Chapter during the coming year.

Officers include, seated from the left, Don Welk, vice president, Lampeter-Strasburg, son of Don and Joyce Welk R2 Strasburg; Margaret Herr, president, Eastern Lancaster County, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Betty Herr, R2 Narvon; Don Hartzler, secretary, Elizabethtown, son of Eugene and Lois Hartzler, R1 Bainbridge.

Standing, from the left, are Chris Esbenshade, sentinel, Solanco, son of Nancy and Fred Esbenshade, R2 Quarryville; Mike Appel, treasurer, Pequea Valley, son of Leon and Grace Appel, R1 Pequea; and Doug Ebersole, reporter, Manheim Central, son of Raymond and Leah Ebersole, R3 Manheim.



Daryl L. Balmer, Little Dutchmen FFA'er at Anville-Cleona and son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Balmer, Lebanon, is congratulated by C. Coleman Harris, National Executive Secretary of the Future Farmers of America, on his top national proficiency placing in Placement in Agricultural Production.

FFA Week set June 19-21

UNIVERSITY PARK — Pennsylvania FFA Activities Week, June 19 to 21 at Penn State, will have as its theme, "Keeping America on the Grow — Vocational Agriculture and FFA." The annual event is sponsored jointly by the College of Agriculture at Penn State and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg.

Highlighting the annual event will be 24 state FFA contests in which 1800 FFA members will demonstrate their agricultural skills and abilities. New state officers will be announced on June 21. Co-chairmen for FFA Activities are Edgar P. Yoder of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at Penn State and Charles F. Lebo of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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. FFA members will have an opportunity to discuss agricultural careers and college programs with personnel from the College of Agriculture.

Carolyn Witmer, State FFA President from East Earl, and 10 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's Blue Band, will present concerts at general sessions each day.

Contest winners will be announced at the final general session June 21 at 9 a.m. in Eisenhower Auditorium. Awards will include expense-paid trips to national and regional FFA contests. Presenting the awards will be Charles F. Lebo, Adult Treasurer of the Pennsylvania FFA, Harrisburg.

E-Town tops wildlife contest

MIDDLE CREEK — The Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area was the scene of the FFA Wildlife Contest among some 40 chapter members from Lancaster, Berks and Lebanon counties.

The contest involved a 50-question written test on wildlife management and general knowledge of wildlife. The competitors also had to identify from 10 slides each of birds, mammals, fish and reptiles or amphibians. They had to select the correct species from a list provided by the Pa. Game Commission and Pa. Fish Commission. Final identification included 10 species of birds from tape recordings of their calls.

The outdoor portion of the contest centered on a test of knowledge of wildlife signs, wildlife tracks and wildlife foods. This segment was coordinated by

Mike Weaver, a senior vo-ag student who was enrolled in the Careers in the Environment Course at Nolde State Park and was placed at Middle Creek as part of his senior year supervised occupational experience program in Eastern Lancaster County School District.

The final portion of the competition involved evaluation of wildlife habitat sites throughout Middle Creek. Official judge was Charles Strouphar, resident manager of the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.

The first-place winner from Elizabethtown FFA was Tony Bevel, with 715 points. He won a \$25.00 check from the Lancaster County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and a copy of the new hardback book, "Pennsylvania Birds," of the Game Commission.

Second place went to Chris Horne, also of Elizabethtown, with 664 points, who won a copy of the Game Commission's Mammal Book. Third-place winner was Mike Sweigart, of Garden Spot High School, New Holland, with 643 points. He was awarded a Working Together for Wildlife Patch depicting the bluebird.

Other top 10 finishers following the leading trio were Scott Zimmerman, Elizabethtown; Mark Metzler, Manheim Central; Jeff Williams, Ken Fanus, Brian Putt, Stacey Wittle, all of E-Town; and Wayne Kauffman, Garden Spot.

A perfect score was 760 points. Competing FFA chapters came from Ephrata, Elizabethtown, Eastern Lancaster County, Manheim Central, Solanco in Lancaster County, ELCO in Lebanon County and Twin Valley in Berks County.

Two FFA'ers win essay lambs

NEW HOLLAND — Two freshmen students at Garden Spot High School, New Holland, Lancaster County, have won feeder lambs in an FFA Market Lamb Essay Contest.

The winners in the contest, which is open to all first and second year students in the Environmental Agriculture course, are Tony Bender, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Bender, Orlon St., New Holland; and Mike Middleton, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Middleton, Valley View Drive, New Holland.

According to Robert Lauffer, environmental agriculture instructor, the purpose of the competition is "to stimulate interest, especially among younger members, in the raising, showing and marketing of FFA project lambs."

This marks the third year that the FFA chapter has sponsored the contest in cooperation with Greystone Manor Farm, Leola; and Breaker Lane Farm, Goodville.

The winners were selected by a panel of three judges who scored the essays independently based on content, spelling, grammar, etc.

Bender selected his lamb from the Breaker Lane flock of Mr. and

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Winners of the Grassland FFA lamb essay contest in the Eastern Lancaster County School District are Mike Middleton, left, and Tony Bender. Middleton's wether came from Graystone Manor Farm, Leola, and Bender's from Breaker Lane Farm, Goodville.

