

## John Kline named Regional Star American Farmer

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — John D. Kline, Myerstown, was recently honored by the Future Farmers of America as one of the organization's four Regional Star American Farmers of 1984.

Kline and three others were selected from nearly 700 candidates for the American Farmer degree. The National FFA officers and board of directors selected the winners based on their leadership achievements and involvement in agricultural production.

Kline's use of current technology in the dairy industry earned him his title of Eastern Region Star Farmer.

The 21-year-old son of Norman and Verna Kline, John uses computers and the newest in dairy breeding technology on his family's 123-acre dairy farm in Myerstown.

John got his start in dairying during his freshman year in vocational agriculture at Eastern Lebanon County High School. He

began with only one Holstein heifer and four veal calves as his first Supervised Occupational Experience, and has built his herd to 59 Holstein heifers. In addition, he raises 70 acres of corn and 35 acres of alfalfa.

"He is forever hard at work on ways to improve the quality of his dairy herd," says Kline's vocational agriculture instructor Gerald Strickler. "He has used the new embryo transfer method of breeding several times in the past two years. He is also using computers today to analyze the correct feeding rations for his dairy herd."

John reports that the computerization has boosted his production levels and the health of his cows right after calving. In addition, it has allowed him to breed the cows back more quickly.

He has been using the embryo transplanting method with his better cows. From the offspring, the bulls are sold as artificial insemination studs and the heifers

are raised to milk. This has improved the young replacement stock in his herd.

Recently, John has taken over the entire family farm's operation through a buy-sell agreement with his parents.

John has been active in FFA for a number of years, serving as chapter reporter and vice president for his local chapter. He was also active in numerous activities and judging contests. In 1982 he was honored as the Eastern Regional Dairy Production Proficiency award winner of the national organization.

"The organization has provided me with opportunities I most likely would never have had the chance to experience on my own," John says. "I highly recommend the FFA to any student pursuing the ideals and purposes for which the organization stands."

Others honored with this award were Mark A. McKay of St Paul, Ore.; Larry O. Nielson, of Tulare,

S.D.; and Steven B. Rogers of Speedwell, Tenn.

Each winner will receive \$1,000 from the national FFA Foundation, Inc. at the 57th National FFA Convention, November 8-10, in Kansas City, Mo. During the convention one of the regional winners will be named Star Farmer of America and will receive an additional \$1,000.

In competing for this top honor,

the regional winners own involvement in agricultural production will be evaluated. They will be judged on their use of good farm management skills, knowledge and use of good business practices and return on investments made through their productive enterprises. Emphasis will also be placed on the growth of their enterprises from the time of their enrollment in vocational agriculture through the present.

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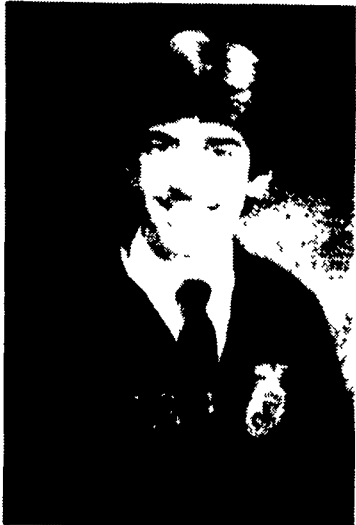
## Duane Herr travels to Germany with FFA program

HERSHEY — Duane Herr, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Herr of R1 Hershey, will participate in the FFA Work Experience Abroad program beginning in August. The program is an international educational exchange between the Future Farmers of America and rural youth organizations in other countries.

Duane chose West Germany as his host county where he will experience living with a farm family and be part of their life style as well as see important places of historic and cultural significance. Duane was able to receive a scholarship from the WEA program to pay for his three-month trip.

Before leaving for West Germany Duane will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with the FFA WEA coordinator. Here he will have a two-day orientation session to learn about his chosen county. Before arriving in Germany, Duane will take a tour of Europe with other FFA exchange students.

Duane Herr graduated from Lower Dauphin Senior High School in 1983. While in the FFA, he received his Keystone Farmer Degree, served two years as chapter president and one year as CDP Area FFA President, was awarded Chapter Star



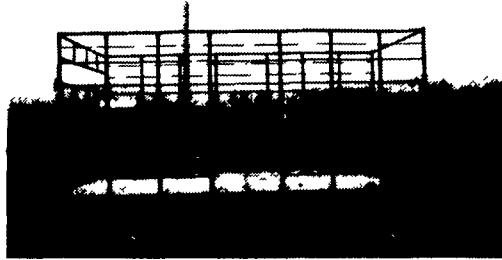
Duane Herr

Agribusinessman, participated four years on the parliamentary procedure team which included a state championship, and won a gold medal in the state salesmanship contest.

This past year Duane served as the state South Central Region vice president and worked part time as assistant manager at Hanoverdale Agway Store. His future plans upon returning from West Germany, include continuing working at Agway and possibly attending Penn State University for animal science.

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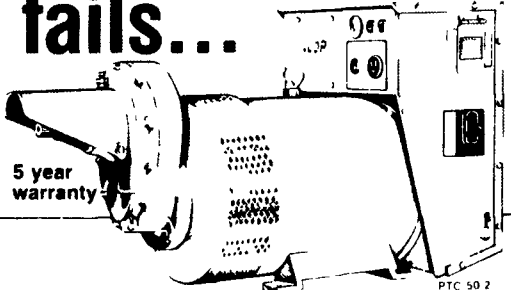
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