

## 4 N.J. FFA'ers to get American degree

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Four New Jersey members of the Future Farmers of America have been recommended by the National FFA Board of Directors to receive the American Farmer degree, according to Nancy J. Schnetzer, State FFA Program Specialist, of Cook College, Department of Education.

The American Farmer degree, recognizing achievement in agriculture and leadership, is the highest degree of membership presented by the Future Farmers of America for students of vocational agriculture. It will be presented during the National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, MO., Nov. 8-10.

The four New Jersey FFA members are: Janet Johnson Duckworth, 20, daughter of Mrs. Ellen Johnson, Belvidere, member of the Belvidere FFA Chapter; Steven P. Gruenberg, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gruenberg, Lebanon, member of the North Hunterdon FFA Chapter; David Pool, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.

Owen Pool, Mickleton, member of the Woodstown FFA Chapter; Debra E. Wooster, 20 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Wooster, Nutley, member of the West Essex FFA Chapter.

The American Farmer degree is much sought after because it is presented to approximately one member in 600 of the 451,722 member organization. It is presented only by the National FFA Organization to members who have demonstrated exceptional agricultural and leadership achievements.

The New Jersey candidates were among 688 FFA members throughout the nation recommended for the American Farmer degree in 1984.

Janet Duckworth's Supervised Occupational Experience Project (SOE) centered around the horticulture aspect of agriculture. Janet gained horticulture experience working in an orchard after school and on weekends in her early years of vocational agriculture/FFA. After learning

floral design techniques in her vocational agriculture classroom, Janet started working at a florist and was soon named manager of the shop.

Janet was also very active in the Belvidere FFA Chapter. She was Chapter President and went on to serve the New Jersey FFA State Association as State Secretary.

Steven Gruenberg's achievements in vocational agriculture and FFA stem from his involvement with a dairy goat project. Steve raised several goats and managed a dairy goat farm during his years at North Hunterdon High School.

He then enrolled in Cook College, Rutgers University, as a Agriculture Science major. He plans to continue his education to prepare for a career in Agriculture Politics.

Steve served North Hunterdon FFA as Chapter President and the State Association as State Reporter and State President. He is presently on the State FFA Association Executive Committee,

is the New Jersey FFA Alumni President, and will represent New Jersey at the National Convention as a National FFA Officer Candidate.

David Pool's recognition for the American Farmer degree is based on his involvement in the dairy production phase of agriculture. Dave owns 30 head of registered Holstein cattle and is Assistant General Manager/Herdsmen of the Ted Fox Dairy Farm in Woodstown. Dave often takes full command of all the breeding and health records of the 160 cow dairy farm. He also shares management decisions and helps balance feed ratios. He was awarded the Star State Farmer Award in 1982 for his achievements.

Dave was an active member and leader of the Woodstown FFA Chapter and served the State Association as State Sentinel.

Southern Region Vice-President and Executive Committee member.

Debra Wooster's Supervised Occupational Experience Program is based on her work in the field of horticulture. Deb worked at a garden center since high school and continues to increase her skills, knowledge and responsibilities in the area of horticulture. She served as assistant manager at the garden center until she transferred to a greenhouse range operation. Deb received the Star State Agribusiness Person Award in 1982.

Deb was very active in the West Essex FFA Chapter, serving as Chapter Sentinel and Vice-President. She served as State Treasurer, Executive Committee member and is presently serving as Northeast Region Vice-President.

## Dectes borer attacks beans

NEWARK, Del. — Dectes stem borer outbreaks in soybeans aren't currently a problem in all parts of Delaware, but when this insect is present, it can cause severe economic damage. Research has shown that borer damage results in direct loss due to plant lodging plus an estimated 10 percent loss in seed weight. Such losses can range from 9 to 27 bushels per acre, so it's important to detect borer infestations before soybeans dry down and lodge, warns University of Delaware extension pest management specialist Joanne Whalen.

The borer usually infests native wild host plants such as common ragweed and cocklebur. But increased soybean production in Delaware has reduced native weed hosts and apparently caused Dectes to shift to soybeans, Whalen says. Surveys conducted by her and fellow entomologists in Delaware have shown that this insect is most likely to infest fields having sandy soil types and areas planted almost exclusively in soybeans.

Adult beetles emerge from girdled stems in early July and lay their eggs on the petioles of soybean plants from July through August. Larvae initially feed in the petiole and then move inside the main stem where they tunnel up and down. When borer larvae reach maturity, they move to the base of the stem, girdle it inside about 1 or 2 inches above ground level, and pack it with frass. High winds or heavy rains will cause the stems to break at the girdled point. Fortunately, says Whalen, not all infested stems are girdled prior to harvest.

She advises growers to start looking for Dectes infestations in late September or early October before their beans dry down. Early detection is essential for in-season control. Once plants begin to lodge, yield losses have already occurred.

Whalen says to base control decisions on a random sample of 20 consecutive stems collected from five areas throughout a field. Split each stem open lengthwise and count the number of larvae present. In general, she recommends harvesting fields early if 10 percent or more of the plants are infested with borers.

If scouting is not done prior to harvest and a high percentage of soybeans lodge at harvesttime, sample stems for Dectes larvae after harvest. The sampling system used pre-harvest can also be used at this time. If 10 percent or more of the stems are infested, consider a control measure for next year.



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