Berks FFA holds conference

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS Staff Correspondent

HAMBURG - The Berks County Future Farmers of America hosted their annual Leadership Training Conference at the Hamburg Area High School, Hamburg, last week. It was well attended with 93 FFA representative from the six county chapters.

Superintendent of the Hamburg School District, James Gilmartin, welcomed the youth to the conference and added, "I can never recall having a discipline problem with any student in vo-ag." He spoke of his high regards for the vo-ag program and its students and recalled the fact that the two highest graduating seniors from the 1983 class at Hamburg were voag students and FFA members.

Berks County FFA President, Rod Stoltzfus, began the program. With a full agenda to be completed this evening, chapter candidates dispersed to take the greenhand and chapter farmer tests while remaining members and guests were treated to a quiz bowl contest.

Each chapter selected two delegates to participate on one of the two quiz bowl teams. Each team contained a member from each county FFA chapter. The winning team was pitted against the Berks County FFA officers. Demonstrating the knowledge of the upcoming younger members, the county officers team was soundly beaten to end the quiz bowl competition.

After a short lunch, the in-depth leadership sessions began

"Team effort, that's the key to

many of the problems a chapter has," Tim Pautz," Pennsylvania FFA vice-president, began his session on chapter problem solving. "Through team effort, a problem can become quite small," he told his group. The class was divided into chapter groups and current problems in the chapters were discussed. Unity and cooperation was stressed by Pautz.

Heather Hernley, Pennsylvania FFA reporter, began her instruction on etiquette and social graces with a true-false questionaire on proper eating habits. Surprized by many of their wrong answers, the students were very interested in the many "do's and don'ts'' of proper etiquette.

"They're going to know you by your actions in a public place, Hernley cautioned the members.



Pa. State FFA Association officers who participated in Berks County Leadership Conference include, from the left, Tim Pfautz, vice president; Heather Hernley, reporter; and Denise Ambler, Eastern Regional vice president.

Joyce Harpster, Boalsburg, and State College Little Lions FFA member, shows off the Grand Champion Lamb at the recent Eastern National Livestock Show at Timonium, Md. Holding the Champion Silver Platter is Jesse Carlington, also of Boalsburg. She added that taking pride in outward appearances and manners makes good impressions of the person and his organization. "We want to make our organization the best it can be,"

she concluded. Finishing the evening program was Denise Ambler, Pennsylvania FFA eastern vice-president. Her discussion on personal goal setting featured the film, "Be all you can dream.¹

Winners of the greenhand and chapter farmer tests will be recognized at the annual chapter banquet and awards ceremonies.

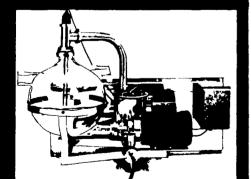
The conference was adjourned by the county state officers after ideas were aired "to try and make our organization the best it can be."



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