

Degrees, awards presented at FFA convention

BY GLENN B. KNIGHT
Special Correspondent

HARRISBURG — Two FFA'ers from Berks and Adams counties won the state agribusiness and star farmer award from among eight regional nominees at the 56th annual state FFA Convention at the Forum here on Wednesday.

Chris Coblentz, a member of Twin Valley FFA Chapter, Berks County, was named state Regional Star Agribusiness person, and Rodney Herr from Conewago-New Oxford FFA Chapter in Adams County won the State Star Farmer award.

Other 1985 Regional Star Agribusiness and Star Farmer award recipients honored this week were:

Regional Star Agribusiness: Gary Kocher from Centre County, Harry Edwards from Blair County, and Terry Landis from Somerset County.

Regional Star Farmers: Judi Troxell, from Snyder County; David Verbeke from Jefferson County; and Fritz Frey from Lancaster County

The two winners both have active histories at all levels of FFA. Herr is the current Adams County FFA president and 1985 winner of the Pork Producers Award. He plans to join in partnership on his family's 165 sow swine operation. Coblentz took first place in the 1984 Pa. Dairy Judging Forum. Active in both livestock and land judging, he has work experience on several dairy farms and wants to eventually own his own dairy operation.

Blue & Gold Award

In other ceremonies during the convention, James C. Fink, the retired Pennsylvania State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture Education, became the first recipient of the Blue and Gold Award from the state FFA Association.

Fink is a native of Everett with bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural education from Penn State. After a number of years in Indiana, he joined the Pa.



Rodney Herr

Department of Education in 1958, retiring in 1981 Fink and his wife, the former Leona Ruble, have three sons. They live in Boiling Springs.

Nearly 2,000 FFA members gathered at the convention to witness the conferring of Keystone farmer degrees to nearly 300 FFA members. A new unit charter was also presented, as well as proficiency awards to FFA members who excelled in various project areas.

Among award winners recognized were Marlin E. Deaven from Shippensburg FFA Chapter, Cumberland County, who won the 1985 Jersey Breeders Association award, and Rodney E. Herr from Conewago-New Oxford FFA in Adams County, recipient of the 1985 Pork Producers Award.

Keystone Parents

Parents who were honored for having three or more Keystone Farmer sons or daughters included:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Brackbill, Mechanicsburg; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Deaven, R2 Newville; Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Leach, R1 Roaring Springs; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer N. Myers, New Oxford; Mr. and Mrs. Rael



Chris Coblentz

Eberly, R1 Newmanstown; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Heilinger, R2 Newmanstown; Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Herr, R2 Narvon; Mr. and Mrs. Abram H. Hess, R1 Conestoga; Mr. and Mrs. Harvey W. Horning, R1 Denver; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kline, R2 Myerstown; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin G. Millee, R1 Lincoln University; Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Weaver, Ephrata; Mr. and Mrs. James N. Zimmerman, R1 Ephrata.

Citation awards to businesses who have shown continued support of the FFA went to Cumberland Valley Board of School Directors; Curryville Agway; ErReR Hill Farm at R1 Friedens; Mechanicsburg First Bank and Trust Co.; Hinich Feed and Supply Co. at Everett; Lampeter Fair Association; Manheim Fair Association; Nittany Valley Meat Market at Howard; O.C. Rice, Inc. at Biglerville; Shaw Packing Co. at Newry; The Country Touch Floral and Gift Shop, Inc. at Brush Valley.

Honorary Degrees

In addition, 38 individuals received Honorary Keystone Farmer Degrees. They were

Charles Behm Jr., R1 Windridge; Barry Bierly, R2 Bellefonte; Philip H. Daubert, Elizabethtown; Elbert Eberts, Morgantown; Bradley Eisiminger, R3 Waynesburg; Roland Feeg, R1 Robesonia; Harold Fleisher, Kutztown; Dr. Eugene Gatty, R1 West Sunbury; Byron Ginther, Huntingdon; Arthur J. Glatfelter, York; Gerald H. Gregg, Lancaster; Ellis J. Griffith, Mill Creek; Daniel E. Helwig, R1 Mt. Joy.

Also, Dr. Larry Hutchinson, DVM, University Park; Carl Jones, Saxonburg; Richard E. Little, Danville; Clifford F. McElrath, Mt. Union; Richard D. Moore, Lebanon; Samuel W. Morris, Pottstown; William M. Paxton, Salisburg; William R. Pierce, Mechanicsburg; John Pino, Commodore; Andrew Pollus, Linesville; Chester W. Raught, Pottstown; Donald W. Reed, New Holland; Lyle Reed, McConnellsburg; Regis I. Sahebel, Saxonburg; Robert L. Sechirst, R1 Fawn Grove; Hugh Shearer, Saxonburg; Melvin Sheffer, Hanover; Mrs. Elaine Taylor, R2 Harrisville; Gordon Taylor, R2 Harrisville; Warren Wagner, Mifflintown; Dana E. Wallace, Orbisonia; Dr. Robert B. Weber, VMD, Mechanicsburg; William E. Witt, Armagh; Ronald F. Wolf, Coudersport; and Harry Wright, Lebanon.

Recognized on the program were the state's 1984 proficiency winners who finished on top in the various categories of judging at Penn State Activities Week last summer. Two FFA'ers were singled out for going on to become Eastern Region winners; Jamie L. Frey from Solanco High School, tops in nursery operations, and Shawn F. Walter from Mifflinburg, agricultural mechanics.

Other 1984 proficiency award winners and their areas are: Richard Thomas, Biglerville, electrification; William H. Kirk, Twin Valley, ag processing; Mervin Keagy, Penn Manor, ag sales and/or service; Deborah J. Palmer, Cowanesque Valley, beef production; Joel Wiand, Mifflinburg, crop production; David G. Rice Jr., Kutztown, dairy production; Chris Hopple, Cumberland Valley, diversified livestock; Scott L. Kephart, Clearfield, fish and wildlife management; Heidi Peiffer, Cedar Crest, floriculture; Brenda Werner, Twin Valley, horse proficiency; Daryl K. Good, Cowanesque Valley, soil and water management; Bonnie E. Wessner, Lehigh Co. AVTS, swine production; Carl Curtis, West Perry, extemporaneous public speaking; Gregg Musser, Elizabethtown, prepared public speaking.

Win honors for C-mas trees

HARRISBURG — Although Christmas 1984 has passed, Christmas tree judging took place at the Farm Show. Carino Nurseries of Indiana County took three first places: Norway spruce, concolor and other fir. Berkey Nursery of Spartansburg, Crawford County also won three firsts: white and black hill spruce, Austrian and red pine, and balsam

and Fraser fir.

In other Christmas tree judging, Leidens Nursery of Patton, Cambria County took first in the blue spruce and white pine categories. G.L. Barker of Williamsburg, Blair County placed first in Scotch pines. Bert Bachert of New Ringgold, Schuylkill County had the first place douglas fir.

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Schedule of Meetings:

- January 29th, 1985 10 AM Good N' Plenty Restaurant — Lancaster, PA.
- January 30th, 1985 10 AM Country Cupboard Restaurant — Lewisburg, PA.
- January 30th, 1985 7 PM Morrison's Cove Memorial Park — Martinsburg, PA.

For Reservations and Information:

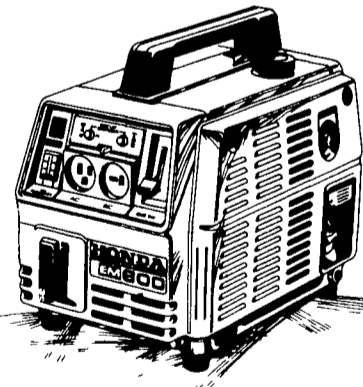
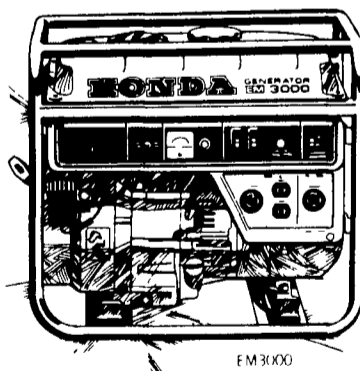
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