

# Cumberland Valley Future Farmers celebrate with annual banquet

BY MONTIE TAK  
Staff Correspondent

MECHANICSBURG — It was time for celebration and congratulation.

On April 18, Future Farmers met with parents, teachers, friends and well-wishers at Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg for the FFA 31st Annual Parent and Member Banquet.

Tim Armstrong won top honors at 1985 Chapter Star Agribusinessman. A senior, Tim stands in the top one-eighth of his class with an 89.9 percent average. He has also served as co-

secretary of the chapter, along with Jenny Shoop.

Chapter Star Farmer awards went to president Ray Yost and vice president Sandy Hopple. Ray also won a foundation award for dairy production and Sandy won foundation awards in sheep production and nursery operations.

FFA reporter Kim Kopple and historian Jeff Nolt took the 1985 Star Greenhand Awards. Kim also received a foundation award for diversified livestock production and outdoor recreation, while Jeff won a foundation award for swine production.

Chapter sentinel Dave Shultz won foundation recognition for beef production and feed grain production. Kurt Hall also scored a double victory with fruit and/or vegetable production and forest management.

Foundation awards for agriculture mechanics went to Lynn Nestor; agriculture elec-

trification to Steve Weaver; placement in agriculture production to Brian Barger and horse proficiency to Cindy Frey.

Seven honorary members were installed and awarded the Chapter Farmer Degree.

These were Randy Yost and Sam Coover, former Cumberland Valley students and both holders of

the coveted American Farmer Degree; Richard Harbold, Wolf's Bus Lines driver; Robert Norman Rudolph, industrial arts teacher; Joyce Simmons, head cook at middle school west; and Montie Tak, Lancaster Farming correspondent. Dr. Robert Weber, veterinarian, was unable to be present.

## Tale of a city gal named honorary Chapter Farmer

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CARLISLE — Few things I have won have meant as much.

When I read the letter informing me the local FFA chapter had chosen me to receive the degree of chapter farmer, I thought there had been a mistake. A phone call to vo-ag teacher Robert Leib told me there was no mistake.

I thought, for a kid from New York City, I did pretty well. Not too many farmers — even honorary ones — grew up within a stone's throw of Times Square. My father's work as a journalist-broadcaster ruled out a home in the country.

But that didn't stop me. I wanted a horse in the worst way, as only a city child can want one. And I didn't realize it at the time, but I had an ally in my mother.

When I was 12, Mom and I spent several days on a 300-acre farm owned by Elwood and Florence Reynolds, near

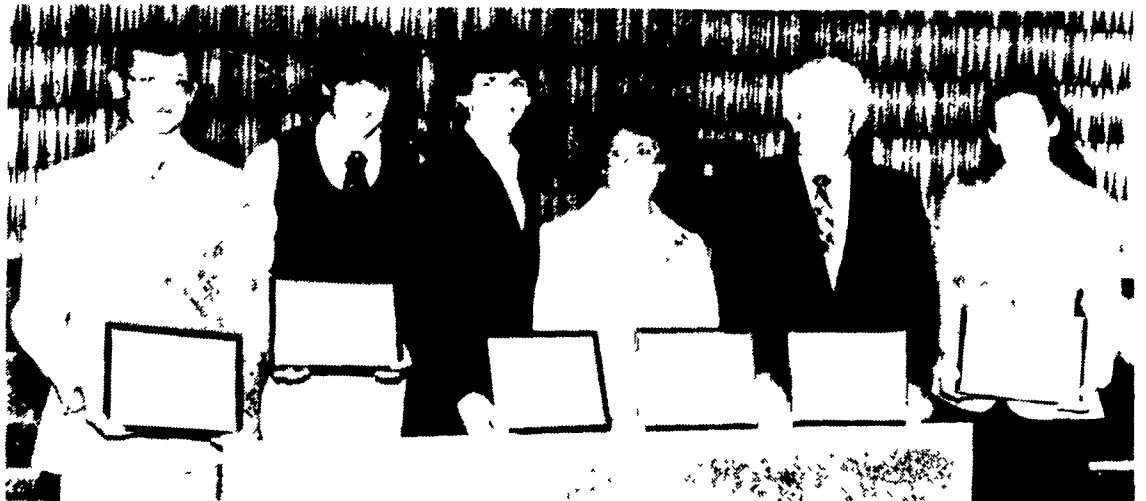
Friendsville, Pa. Mom had learned of the Reynolds through the Pennsylvania farm vacation directory. It was an experience that changed my life.

Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds became second parents to me as I spent the next four summers on their farm. I learned what it was like to rise before dawn, go out into the fields and bring in the dairy herd. I even learned and how to milk by hand on a patient Holstein named Rosie.

After breakfast I would take the cows to their daytime pasture by herding them on one of the farm's several riding horses. My favorite was a beautiful chestnut named Lady and it was she who taught me to have compassion and love for God's creatures. Lady heard all my secrets.

There were always plenty of chores around the farmhouse and I learned to run a wringer

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Newly installed honorary members holding Chapter Farmer Degrees from left are Robert Rudolph; Samuel Coover; Randall Yost, Joyce Simmons, Richard Harbold and Montie Tak.



Special award winners at Cumberland Valley FFA banquet from left are Tim Armstrong, Chapter Star Agribusinessman; Sandy Hopple, Chapter Star Farmer; Kim Hopple, Star Greenhand; Jeff Nolt, Star Greenhand; and Ray Yost, Chapter Star Farmer.

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