

# Lower Dauphin FFA Honors Kenneth Staver at Annual Banquet

BY TIM GRUBER  
Chapter Reporter

**HUMMELSTOWN** — The 26th Annual Parent-Member Banquet of the Lower Dauphin Chapter of the Future Farmers of America was held April 18 in the Senior High School cafeteria with over 100 members and guests present.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a special "Blue and Gold Award" to Kenneth Staver, dean of students at Lower Dauphin. A former vocational agriculture teacher, Staver has long supported the FFA chapter. He has done much of the behind-the-scenes work when the chapter has gone on activities. And he has often been the spokesman for FFA in front of the board of education, the administration, and the community.

Cindy Baker, a former winner of the award, presented the DeKalb Agricultural Achievement Award to Lydee Cassel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cleon Cassel of Hummelstown. Lydee has served as assistant secretary of the Lower Dauphin chapter and has an outstanding project of thoroughbred racehorses. She has run these horses at Penn National, as well as other tracks in Pennsylvania and

Maryland. Lydee has also won several medals on the state level for her project work.

Frank Gilbert received the Citizenship Award. Frank is chapter president and president of the Cumberland-Dauphin-Perry Area FFA. Frank is a member of Lower Dauphin's football, basketball, and track teams. John Cassel, a member of the board of education at Lower Dauphin, presented this award.

The Star Greenhand award, presented to the outstanding first-year FFA member, was given to Dan Baker and Steve Kiner. Dan is a member of the chapter's parliamentary procedure team and has participated in the county creed contest and poultry judging contest. Dan's projects include work experience and raising poultry.

Steve Kiner maintains a wildlife improvement project and has participated in the county poultry judging contest. Steve is active in other school and community organizations as well.

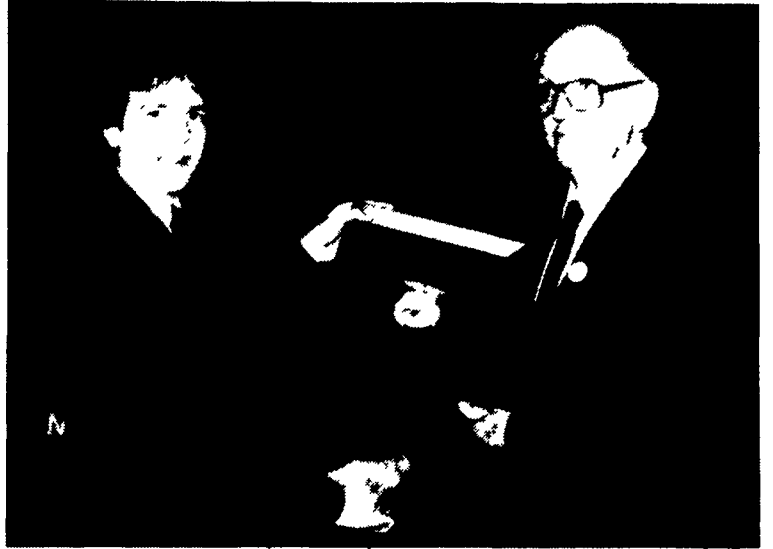
Todd Long received the Star Chapter Farmer award, which is given to the outstanding student who has earned the Chapter Farmer degree. Todd has served

as the chapter's community service chairman this past year and won a gold medal in state competition for his project book on dairy cattle.

Proficiency Awards, sponsored by the National FFA Foundation, were presented to the following members: Dave Chervis, specialty animal production; Kevin Johnson, placement in ag production; Dale Morgan, diversified livestock production; Sue Zerphey, sheep production; Jeff Tetzloff, home or farmstead improvement; Stan Tetzloff, fruit or vegetable production; Dave Chervis, extemporaneous public speaking; and Lori Benefiel, general public speaking. Also honored was Brian Hoerner, winner of the state proficiency award in diversified livestock production.

Scholarship pins, presented to members who made the honor roll two out of three marking periods this year, were given to Steve Kiner, Tammy Baker, Sue Zerphey, Doug Bauder, Lydee Cassel, and Todd Long.

Jim Landvater, Jr., last year's FFA chapter president, presented retiring officer plaques to Frank Gilbert, president; and Tim Gruber, reporter. These FFA



Doug Bauder, left, president of the Lower Dauphin FFA Chapter, presents the special Blue and Gold award to Kenneth Staver, a long time FFA supporter and school administrator at Lower Dauphin.

officers are all graduating seniors. Honorary membership in the chapter was bestowed upon several adults who assisted the chapter during the past several years. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crist, Mr. and Mrs. Cleon Cassel, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Long, Miss Mary Smith, and Mrs. Linda Gilbert, all received honorary degrees for

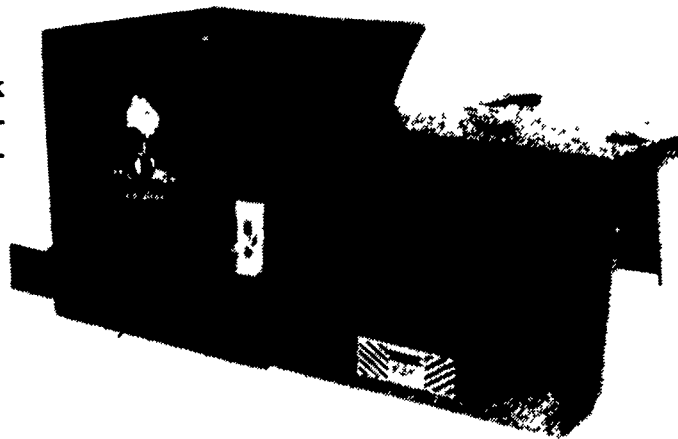
helping their sons or daughters to earn the Keystone Farmer degree. Joan Bonawitz is a school secretary, who has done much of the typing for chapter award applications over the years. She also received the honorary degree. In addition, Dale Fisher was honored as the Alumni of the Year. Fisher assisted the chapter this year by pulling its float in the homecoming parade and by harvesting and buying the oats from the chapter's land laboratory.

Julie Hess, Pennsylvania state FFA president, offered several remarks to the chapter. A slide series highlighting the activities of the past year was also presented. Finally, Mr. Ramelle MacCoy, a hypnotist, provided entertainment for the guests present.

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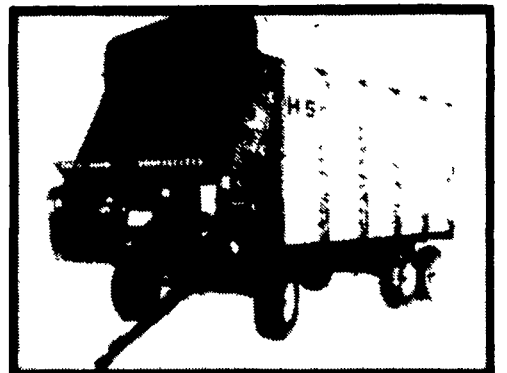
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