

Pa. FFA Members Compete in State Contests During Activities Week

BY MARY MAXWELL
Centre County Correspondent
UNIVERSITY PARK — More than 1,500 FFA members from throughout Pennsylvania attended their annual FFA Activities Week held recently on the Penn State campus.

During the 3-day convention FFA members toured the Penn State campus and participated in a wide variety of educational and recreational activities. Some members combined their musical talents to participate in the FFA band and chorus. Other high school students participated in 27 competitive events ranging from public speaking and livestock judging to mechanical contests.

"FFA Activities Week is an important part of vocational agriculture programs," said Michale Rush, chairman of the conference. "It gives the best students a chance to test what they've learned and to receive recognition for their accomplishments."

The highest-ranked gold winners in most contests will compete in November at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Other winners may go on to compete in the Eastern States Exposition, Atlantic Rural Exposition or the Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition.

The following are students who won gold recognition and the high schools they represented.

- Agricultural Mechanics**
Darryl Weaver, E Lancaster County John Brofee, Greenwood Roy W Aument Solanco Rodney Byrd, W B Saul Allen Edgell Penn Manor Mike Hall, Lampeter Strasburg
- Agricultural Salesmanship**
Jon Bierly, Penns Valley, Elaine Zeiset Garden Spot, Abe Harpster, Tyrone Area
- Agronomy**
Robert Adam Kutztown Brenda Boose Ber mudan Springs
- Chapter Procedure**
Mifflinburg Area Team David Gessner David Dietrich, Crystal Zechman Jeffrey Baker, Chris Faulk, Patti Snook, Jonathan Boop, Lisa Haines Cedar Crest Team Jon Boyer Mardeil Boyd Colette Hower, Lisa Houser Brenda Balmer, Adam Hain John Whary Jim Houser
Annville Cleona Team Dale Balmer Tim Elliott Sheila Hostetter, Kent Hoffer, Mike Beare Eric Harnish, Shaun Martin, Scott Brunser
- Creed Speaking**
Kirk Sttazahn Conrad Weiser, Tim Clouser, Penns Valley Becky Stumpf, United Brenda McFarland, Conrad Weiser John Rishel Mifflinburg Area, Susan Swanger, Derry Dee Curtis West Perry Kevin Zimmerman Benton Chris Davidson, Shippensburg, Clifford Ocker James Buchanan, Missy Allen, Conneaut Valley
- Dairy Foods**
Karen Fessler Conrad Weiser Brian Harnish, Solanco Joyce Pettit, West Greene Karen Leslie Mohawk, Michelle Szymanski Conneaut Valley
- Dairy Judging**
Tom Arrowsmith, Solanco, Tom Wiker Solanco Irene Benner Greenwood Tom McCauley Elizabethtown, Robert Davis Oxford David Mattocks Tunkhannock Area Jim Shade Juniata Valley Donald Vivell, Mansfield, Bert Ianson Cowanesque Valley, Michael Buket Central Dave Mull, Solanco Benjamin Dom Jr West Perry Denise Mills Lampeter Strasburg Duane Copenhaver Annville Cleona Allen Heagy Annville Cleona
- Dairy Showmanship**
Linda Buffington Upper Dauphin James Zakosteletzky Linesville
- Farm Management**
Kay Lobaugh Biglerville Fay Lobaugh Biglerville
- Floriculture**
Stacy Webb Mt Joy AVTS Michelle Kocsis Bethlehem Jill Wolf Brownstown AVTS Chrissy Hill Derry Area Lori Floor Northern Bedford Lisa M Jones W B Saul
- Forestry**
Terry Johnson, Somerset AVTS John Fleming Brockway Beth Morgan, Twin Valley, Mike Smoker E Lancaster County Virgil Wilford Derry Area
- FFA Interview**
Jennifer Weimer, New Oxford, Bob Dunkle, Redbank Valley, Sue Burkhardt, Twin Valley, Pete Gryzbek Brockway, Thomas Parks, Kennard Dale
- Land Judging**
Larry Smeltz Upper Dauphin Thomas Wiker Penn Manor Bary Broderick, Penn Manor Jeff Taylor Clearfield, William Lahr, Upper Dauphin Ernie Bieser, Cowanesque Valley, Kevin Guldin Oley Valley Darryl Spidle Halifax, Tim Ulrich, Solanco, Kelley Kilinger Selinsgrove, Howard Prosser Smethport Dan Over Northern Bedford, Christopher Yohn Juniata Angela Zeiset E Lancaster Co
- Livestock Judging**
Pete Cattau Apollo Ridge Rob Rohrer Oxford Jeremy Cattau, Apollo Ridge, Andy Grotf Lam peter Strasburg, Chad Griffin Cowanesque Valley Bobby Leslie, Laurel, Kim Hopple, Cumberland Valley, Mike Stoltzfus Twin Valley Tiffany Rohrer Oxford Greg Strickler Hamburg, Lee Hayes Tyrone, Toby Shank, Penn Manor Glenn Heffner Oley Valley HS, Robin Baker Cowanesque Valley
- Meats Judging**
Jeff Craig Solanco Jay Lownsbey Penn Manor Jeanette Aument, Penn Manor Phillip Fullerton Elizabethtown
- Nursery Landscape**
James D Hess Jr, Willow Street AVTS Tammy Bresh Willow Street AVTS Julie Haldeman Willow Street AVTS
- Pleasure Horse**
Tricia Evans Oley Valley Suzy Hash Kennard Dale Cindy Frey Cumberland Valley Linda Ruckdeschel Knoch Robert Bergen Owen J Roberts Rich Gorsuch Somerset HS Roy Shearer Apollo Ridge, Shelley Urban Warwick Ann Marie Burgess W B Saul, Kim Brossman Twin Valley
- Poultry**
Don Hess Penn Manor Chuck Buchanan Eastern Lancaster (GA Brian Miller Elizabethtown
- Public Speaking (FFA)**
Fred Dixon Bellewood Antis Tim Brown Linesville Susan North Purchase Line Susan Elliot Annville Cleona Mark Anderson Dover Scott Hursh Mifflinburg Area Randy Risser Solanco, Melissa Spayd Oley Valley Gary Bailey Clearfield Joetta Denman West Greene, Ross Hershberger Northern Bedford Henry Zerby, West Snyder
- Public Speaking (Conservation)**
Barry Spangler, Mifflinburg, Kermit Stahl, Somerset Area Lisa Acompura, Canton Jennifer Jesiolowski Oley Valley Joseph C Werteleit Conneaut Valley, Kay Fessler, Conrad Weiser, Helen Norman Liberty, Michael E Pryor, Waynesboro, Tracy Floor, Everett, Leslie Young, Berlin Brothersvalley, Terry Mathers, Bellewood Antis
- Public Speaking (Extemporaneous)**
Jeff Benfer Selinsgrove Area Walter Gunn Cowanesque Valley, George Metzler, Octorara Daniel Brandt, Annville Cleona, Dan McNutt United, Joe Zerby, West Snyder Scott Lemmon Big Spring, Michael Troxell Fairfield, Doug Bedford Rockwood Area, Carol Rupp, Redbank Valley Rich Wetzell Fairfield
- Scrapbook Contest**
Somerset County AVTS, Lower Dauphin, Mount Union Area Cedar Crest, Rockwood Area Small Gasoline Engines (Individual) Leon Hesey Manheim, Jere Patches Manheim Small Gasoline Engines (Team) Manheim Clearfield
- Tractor Driving**
Terry Engle, Upper Dauphin Bryan Loper Fort LeBoeuf Dean Nolt, E Lebanon Co John Deamer, Juniata Don Johnston Marion Center Mervin King, Kennard Dale
- Wildlife Contest**
Mike Gerberich, Elizabethtown Gracey Douglas Altoona AVTS, Bradley Gates, W B Saul Dan Schoonover N Potter, James Baney Selinsgrove Mike Peters Ephrata Scott Anderson Mifflinburg Area Chuck Secrist Chambersburg Chuck Dilts Reynolds Jim Shirr E Lancaster Co

Winners in the FFA Talent Show were Blue Ridge FFA (first place Gold) with a music and mime skit by members Ed Fahrney, Bobby Bingaman, Robert Henning and Kenny Cook. The State College Area FFA won a second place Gold

with square dancers Nicole Eckenroth, Leigh Fyock, Paula Miller, Tammy McTavish, Ed Maxwell, Doug Moore, Gary Dreibellis and Mark Duck.

Dawn VanDyke, Biglerville, singing and accompanying herself on the piano, won third place. Comedian Gary Bailey of Clearfield won fourth place. Fifth place was won by the Twin Valley FFA for a skit presented by Bob Arney, Tom Morgan, Kevin Stoltzfus, Sue Burkhardt, Bob Bell, Beth Morgan Rich Stonaker, and Rick Hicks.

At the final General Session new FFA State Officers were elected. These students are Sheila Biddle, Williamsburg High School, president; Bill Blank, Octorara High School, vice-president; George R. Metzler, Octorara High School, Eastern vice-president; John P. Painer II, Cowanesque High School, N. Central vice president; Harry L. Brubaker III, Northern Bedford High School, S. Central vice-president; Craig Waltermier, Rockwood High School, Western vice-president; Lisa Acampora, Canton High School, secretary; J. Richard Speer, Southern Huntingdon Co. High School, treasurer; Dana Brooks, W.B. Saul High School, reporter; Naomi Herbert, Kutztown High school, sentinel; Dale Balmer, Annville Cleona High School, chaplain.

Maryland State FFA Convention Filled With Enthusiasm, Motivation

BY SHARON SCHUSTER
Maryland Correspondent
HAGERSTOWN — Over 340 FFA members and guests attended the 58th annual Maryland State FFA Convention June 18 and 19 at the Ramada Inn in Hagerstown, Md.

During the course of the two-day event, FFA members representing 52 chapters competed on an individual basis and for team recognition. State officer candidates were selected, and outgoing officers gave their retiring remarks as the sessions progressed.

Brian Glass, 1985-86 state president, promised that "this convention is going to be filled with enthusiasm, motivation, inspiration and young people from across the state." And, true to his promise, the center came alive with exuberant youth, all actively participating in meetings on the grandest scale.

Orderly, efficient and involved, the large group carried on official business with more spit and polish than a national political convention. And, as one observer put it, "There is never an adult on stage, unless he is invited." Advisors were present, but it was clearly evident that, although respected members of each chapter, their place was in the

audience.

It was a magical day for those attending the final sessions. John Carrington, manager of Maryland's famed Lexington Market, delivered the keynote address in a non-traditional way. While performing magic tricks, "The Wizard" gave a pep rally kind of message to his very attentive and involved audience.

"This room is filled with bright, energetic, hard working young people who tomorrow will feed the world," he announced. Using magical rings, Carrington outlined the "keys to believing in yourself: responsibility, earning, learning, skills, and spirit." With the help of the whimsical character, Oscar the Rabbit, Carrington summarized his message; "Latch on to that FFA spirit and let your talents grow and then let them work for you."

Each session was filled with inspirational messages for the FFA'ers. The retiring remarks of Irene "Reenie" Bonner brought the audience to their feet for a standing ovation. "Everyone must believe in something," began Bonner. "Everyone must have dreams. As young people we must believe in tomorrow. Set no limitations on yourself." Moving many to tears she said, "FFA

members, I'd like to challenge you to believe in your country, your home, agriculture, but most of all believe in yourself."

Vice president of the National FFA Association Robert Weaver delivered the keynote address of the final session. An Agricultural Engineering major at Auburn University, the 21-year-old Weaver echoed the sentiments of his state counterparts.

"If there is something you want, don't let anything stop you," advised Weaver. Recounting the story of his first attempt to become a national officer, he said: "It takes character and maturity to be a person who can fail and come back." Defeated on his first try, Weaver said he returned to vie for a national position a second time. "There are so many opportunities I would have missed," he explained.

Demonstrating wisdom beyond their years, the theme FFA youth presented "believe in yourself" throughout the event.

"The highest award that the FFA can bestow" is how the State Star awards were described. Recipients of the degrees were Dean Poffenberger of Boonsboro, for Agribusiness, and Eric Fleming of Chopticon, for Production Agriculture. The new state of Maryland officers for 1986-87 is as follows:

President, Mark Hooper, Frederick; Secretary, Buck Cessna, Flintstone; Region 1, Chuck Fitzwater, Oakland; Region 2, Raymond Stagner, Smithsburg; Region 3, Mike Marchesani, Walkersville; Region 7, Eric Fleming, Chopticon; Region 9, Henry Niehaus, Queen Anne's.

- 1986 MARYLAND STATE FFA CONVENTION RESULTS**
- Senior Public Speaking**
1st Michael Marchesani Walkersville 2nd Mark Rohrer Boonsboro
- Junior Public Speaking**
1st Anne Kemp Brunswick 2nd Jennifer Haggerty Damascus
- Senior Extemporaneous Speaking**
1st Scott Isanogle Frederick 2nd Monica Daniel Boonsboro
- Junior Extemporaneous Speaking**
1st Regina Williams Linganore 2nd Mike Kepple Oakland
- Parliamentary Procedure**
1st Frederick 2nd Westminster
- American Royal Queen Candidate**
1st Cheryl Pokorny Linganore 2nd Michele Payne Frederick Vo Tech
- Knowledge**
1st Mark Hooper Frederick 2nd Greg Stull Walkersville



John Carrington, keynote speaker at the Maryland FFA Convention, delivered his motivational message while performing magic tricks. Here, he is pictured with Oscar the Rabbit.

- Team Results**
1st Frederick 2nd Walkersville
- Horticulture Happenings**
1st Beth Johnson Brunswick 2nd Melinda Gorka Frederick
- Creed**
1st Melinda Gorka Frederick 2nd Diederick Thiessen Harford
- Ornamental Horticulture Bowl**
1st Walkersville 2nd Middletown
- Production Agriculture Bowl**
1st Boonsboro 2nd, Clear Spring
- Talent**
1st Mark Hooper Frederick 2nd Cookie Henderson Crossland
- Hall of Chapters**
1st Catoctin 2nd, Walkersville
- Proficiency Awards**
Ag Sales and Service
Sherri Haupt Brunswick
Floriculture
Adrienne Shaffer Brunswick
Beef Production
David Shriver Catoctin
Horse Proficiency
Sarah Osborn Walkersville
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement
Michael Marchesani Walkersville
- Chapter Awards**
Safety
Frederick Vo-Tech gold Walkersville silver
National Chapter Awards
Brunswick gold Harford Vo-Tech silver
Building Our American Communities (BOAC)
Brunswick (gold) Frederick Vo Tech silver

- BOAC Governor's Citation**
Brunswick
Achievement in Volunteerism
Nelson Burns
Regional Star Agribusiness
Region 1 Matt Cessna Flintstone
Region 2 Dean Poffenberger Boonsboro
Regional Star Production Ag
Region 1 Kevin Clingerman Flintstone
Region 2 Mark Rohrer Boonsboro
Region 3 David Shriver Catoctin
Region 7 Eric Fleming Chopticon
Region 9 Donnie McFarland Queene Annes County
- State Star Agribusiness**
Dean Poffenberger Boonsboro
State Star Production Agriculture
Eric Fleming Chopticon
Blue and Gold Award
Dr Clifford Nelson
Honorary State Agriculturists
Karl Berger
Jay Hoffman
Robert Leiter
Tom Mannion
Carol Veisek
Ralph Bolyard
Gerald Jubb, Jr
George Littrell
Blair Penn
Frances Waters
Ernest Yates
- Parents of the State Officers (85-86) also received the award
- Distinguished Service Award**
Delmarva Farmer



Maryland State FFA officers for 1986-87 are, front from left, Henry Niehaus, Region 9; Mike Marchesan, Region 3; Buck Cessna, secretary; Mark Hooper, president; Eric Fleming, Region 7.

In back from left are Chuck Fitzwater, Region 1, and Raymond Stagner, Region 2.

