

Virginia FFA Names Star Farmer, Agribusinessman at Annual Convention

BY JULIE GOCHENOUR
Virginia Correspondent
BLACKSBURG, Va. — The Virginia Association of Future Farmers of America honored 256 members with the State Farmer Degree last week during its annual convention at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. State president Lee Arrington of Gretna, presided over activities during the four-day event.

The first Virginia FFA convention or State Rally, held in April 1927, was among the first held in the United States and may predate all other FFA state conventions. That first convention organized the Future Farmers of America, or FFV, and the Future Farmers of America used the constitution, by-laws, official ceremonies, portions of the emblem, and the structure of the FFV when the national organization was founded in 1928 in Kansas City, Mo. Virginia was also the first chartered state association of the national organization.

This year's recipients of the State Farmer Degree include 17-year-old Tina Marie Stiles who was named Virginia's FFA State Star Farmer for 1986. She is the first woman to receive this award in

Virginia. Tina, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Stiles of Toms Brook, is a member of the Strasburg FFA Chapter in northern Shenandoah County.

J. C. Banks, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Banks of Hillsville, and a member of the Carroll County Chapter of the FFA, was named the State Star Agribusinessman for 1986.

Miss Stiles qualified for the award through her outstanding accomplishments in FFA activities and a well-rounded Supervised Occupational Experience Program. Her major farm duties on her parents' dairy operation include caring for calves from calving to weaning, working with the crops, milking and halter training show animals. She also works part-time in a local veterinary clinic and has been an active member of the Strasburg FFA chapter.

J. C. Banks' qualifications include work on his parents' dairy farm, production of beef steers and veal calves, and numerous FFA activities.

Other Virginia FFA members also received statewide recognition of their accomplishments during the annual

convention. These include the recipients of the following awards:

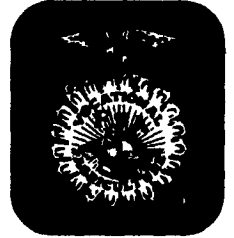
Craig J. Bailey, Broadway, Va., FFA Diversified Livestock Production; J. C. Banks, Hillsville, Va., FFA Soil and Water Management; Andrew Barr, Damascus, Va., FFA Fruit and/or Vegetable Production; Raymond Brown, Elkwood, Va., FFA State Agriculture Mechanics; Bryan Cauthorne, Ashland, Va., FFA Poultry Production; Mack Clark, South Hill, Va., FFA Home and/or Farmstead Improvement; Kevin K. Craun, Mt. Crawford, Va., FFA Dairy Production.

Marty Diehl, Harrisonburg, Va., FFA Swine Production; Chris Dove, Churchville, Va., FFA Wildlife Management; Richie Farmer, Woodlawn, Va., FFA Agricultural Processing; Carl Felts, Toms Brook, Va., FFA Agricultural Sales and/or Service; Danny Wade Goad, Hillsville, Va.,

FFA Placement in Agricultural Production; Keith Harris, Spout Spring, Va., FFA Cereal Grain Production; Tommy Hicks, Mechanicsville, Va., FFA State Floriculture; Sandy Lynn Hobson, Mechanicsville, Va., FFA Horse Proficiency; Jeremy D. Howell, Willis, Va., FFA Nursery Operations.

Andrew M. Meadows, Elkton, Va., FFA Beef Production; Raymond Newton, Fredericksburg, Va., FFA Oil Crop Production; Warren David Reed, Dillwyn, Va., FFA Computers in Agriculture, Turf & Landscape Management; William J. Ruffner, Luray, Va., FFA Forage Production; Charles Sitton, Jr., Jefferson Forest, Va., FFA Agricultural Electrification; Robert W. Spittler, II, Edinburg, Va., FFA Forest Management; Mark A. Sylva, Howerston, Va., FFA Specialty Animal Production.

Carol Terwilliger, Abingdon, Va., FFA Achievement in Volunteerism; Kevin D. Thayer, Abingdon, Va., 1986 Appalachian Area Star Farmer; Bill Wade, Greenville, Va., FFA Sheep Production; Hal Whittington, Strasburg, Va., FFA Outdoor Recreation; Phillip E. Whitlow, Brookneal, Va., FFA Feed Grain Production.



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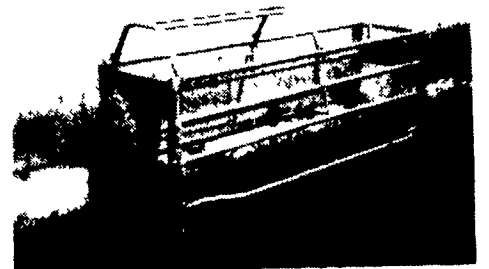
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