

Recent Graduate Begins Term As State FFA Officer, Launches Career

BY SUZANNE KEENE

MOHNTON — While many of this year's new crop of high school graduates are whiling away the summer on local beaches, 18-year-old Lamar Gockley of Mohnton is getting a solid start on his career and beginning a term as state FFA vice president for the Eastern region.

A full-time employee of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative since his graduation from Garden Spot High School earlier this month, Lamar was elected a state FFA officer last week during FFA Activities Week at Penn State University.

FFA Activities Week was an exciting time for Lamar, who says he had just re-entered Eisenhower Auditorium after having his photo taken as a new officer when the person giving awards announced that the Garden Spot FFA team had won the Chapter Procedure Contest.

The week also included two days of intensive interviews with the nominating committee, which is charged with selecting next year's state officers. One month earlier, he had completed an application form listing activities and awards he received during his four years

in FFA.

Lamar listed several leadership positions on his application, including chapter vice president and Lancaster County FFA president. He also holds the Red Rose (county) and Keystone Farmer degrees. Last year, he was runner-up for star Red Rose Farmer.

Top among the FFA awards he has won is the Tri-County Ayrshire Award, an Ayrshire calf that has become part of the family's Willow Springs Farm dairy herd. Lamar raised the calf and showed it to first place in the junior yearling class at the Pennsylvania Dairy Show.

Lamar also owns a Holstein cow which he purchased in 1984. After a brief showing career, he retired her to the farm's milking herd as well.

The Gockleys milk 48 Holsteins — and one Ayrshire — on their dairy farm near Adamstown. Lamar's parents, Glenn and Margaret, started the farm in 1958 with just 14 cows.

Helping with the barn and field chores at home is just part of Lamar's busy schedule. He begins his day at Atlantic at 7 a.m. and finishes there at 4. With a quick supper under his belt, he heads for the barn to help his father and his older brothers with the milking and barn chores.

Lamar spends most of his Saturdays, at least during the spring and summer, mowing lawns. For the past three years he has operated a small lawn mowing business.

"I don't have much time to goof off," he says modestly. "I keep myself out of trouble that way."

His duties as a state FFA vice president will crowd his schedule even more, taking an estimated 60 to 90 days of his time in the coming year.

His FFA responsibilities will include attending leadership conferences, the FFA National Convention and the Mid-Winter



This Holstein cow is one of two dairy animals Lamar raised as FFA projects. He also owns an Ayrshire cow he received as an award several years ago.



After putting in a full day at Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, Lamar helps at home with the evening milking.

Convention, for which the state officers do much of the planning. From February to May, when most chapters hold their annual awards banquets, he will often be a guest speaker.

Lamar says his speaking skills have come a long way since his first days in FFA and he thinks the experience he will have in the next year will help him to improve even more.

He is also looking forward to the opportunities he will have to make new friends. "I already made seven new friends," he said, referring to the other state officers with whom he will be working.

Lamar remembers admiring state officers as a high school

freshman and is proud that he has achieved this level of success in FFA. He believes the number and diversity of the activities in which he has participated helped prepare him for his new role.

In addition to his leadership positions and the degrees he holds, Lamar is president of his church youth group and helped to plan a county FFA leadership conference. He is a member of the Honor Society and is listed in Who's Who Among American High School students.

In two years, Lamar plans to apply for the American Farmer degree, which is awarded to a few select FFA'ers in the nation.

FFA Members Flock To Penn State Campus For Activities Week

BY MARY MAXWELL

Centre County Correspondent
UNIVERSITY PARK — The blue and gold jackets of FFA members colored the Penn State campus last week when over 1,500 high school students filled ag shops, classrooms, rehearsal rooms and parking lots for the annual FFA Activities Week contests.

"These FFA members always inspire us when they come here to the campus," said Don Mincemoyer, director of the three-day conference. "They are a responsible group of young people concerned and knowledgeable about agriculture, agribusiness and the world."

The teenagers, representing FFA chapters from throughout Pennsylvania, competed in 29 events ranging from "hands-on" tasks in floriculture, tractor driving and dairy judging to public speaking and talent contests.

The highest-ranking 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, Springfield, Mass.; the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma; the Tri-State Contest, Ithaca, NY; the PA All-American Show or PA Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg.

At the final general session new FFA state officers were elected. Melissa A. Spayd, Oley Valley, was elected president; Mark Anderson, Dover, state-wide vice president; Lamar Gockley, Eastern Lancaster, Eastern vice-president; Caressa Compton, Danville, secretary; Kathryn Sollenberger, Williamsburg, treasurer; Wesley Planthaber, Huntington, state chaplain; David Ulsh, Blue Mountain, sentinel; and Patty Snook, Mifflinburg, reporter.

Winners of gold recognition are:



New State FFA officers are, from left, Caressa Compton, Danville, secretary; Patty Snook, Mifflinburg, reporter; Melissa Spayd, Oley Valley, president; Kathryn Sollenberger, Williamsburg, treasurer. In back row, from left, are Mark Anderson, Dover, state vice president; Lamar Gockley, Eastern Lancaster, Eastern vice president; Wesley Planthaber, Huntington, chaplain; and Dave Ulsh, Blue Mountain, sentinel.

Homestead Notes

Agricultural Mechanics

Leon Helsey Manheim Central Robert Woerner Biglerville Doug Beish Clearfield Kevin Tuckey Biglerville John Brotee Greenwood John Mohney Kane

Agricultural Salesmanship

Clair Wriglesworth Curwensville Delva Huber Garden Spot Nicole Childers N... Bedford Rob Bergenstock Danville

Agronomy

David McKinney M... Hawk Tammy Busch Eastern York Tricia Evaris Oley Valley

Chapter Procedure

Garden Spot... M... St... M...

Creed Speaking

Cathy Matthew Twin Valley Brenda Haylett Conneaut Valley Tracy Unger Conneaut Valley Tony Gomez Oxford Glen Campbell Upper Dauphin Stephanie Nagle Annville Cleona Brad Herrold Waynesboro Lisa Funt Northern York Lynnette Duell Lynnette Kevin Rishel Mifflinburg Day Swisher State College Keith Hay Berlin Br... Valley

Dairy Foods

Barry Snyder Elizabethtown Emil Peters State College Karen Leslie Mifflinburg Becky Heibner Jame Buchanan

Dairy Judging Individual

... M... Elizabeth... R... Dav... Jeff... Duane... St...

Tom Barley Penn Manor Duane Copenhaver Annville Cleona Donald Wivell Liberty and Mansfield Duane Stoltzfus Twin Valley Jeff Bacon Cowanesque Valley

Dairy Judging Team

Solanco Jeff Craig Mark Hess Matt Ulrich

Dairy Showmanship

Michael Burket Central Scott Youse Oley Valley Jim Finney James Buchanan

Farm Management

Matt Frazier Pequea Valley Robert Adair Kutztown Randy Risser Swatara

Floriculture

Mark... Adair Peary Beth Sauer... W... Paul... Swatara... Mifflinburg... Per...

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