

Lancaster Red Rose Degree

The Lancaster County FFA recently awarded the Red Rose Degree to those qualified members in Lancaster County.

Kristin Chupp, a junior at Garden Spot High School and a member of the Grassland FFA, was selected Star Farmer of Lancaster County while Jeff Gehman of the same organization was named Star Agribusinessman of Lancaster County. Each will receive a check for \$75 at the County Awards Banquet to be used to defray expenses on their trip to the National Convention in Kansas City next fall.

The Red Rose degree is based upon an FFA member's supervised occupational experience program, leadership activities, and school and community activities in addition to FFA. Applicants meeting the minimum standards established by the County Chapter then have their applications screened, and only the top 8 percent are eligible to receive the award.

Kristin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry R. Weaver, Spruce Street, New Holland, had a diversified livestock supervised occupational program. She has raised steers, market lambs and a horse as part of her farming program. She

has also won numerous awards in showing both steers and lambs at the county, state and national levels.

Other activities include president of her chapter's ninth grade FFA and second student advisor and second sentinel the past two years.

Scholastically she is an honor roll student at Garden Spot and has been active in leadership positions in the New Holland 4-H beef club and the Red Rose 4-H Beef Club.

Runner-up in the Star Farmer selections were Fred Weaver, RD1 Ephrata, from the Cloister Chapter and Jenny Harnish, Christiana, of the Solanco Chapter. Other Star Candidates and their chapters were: Harold Barley, Penn Manor, Andrew Groff, Lampeter-Strasburg, and John Hess, Manheim Central.

Jeffrey Gehman, son of Mr. and Mrs. David A. Gehman, East Earl, who was selected County Star Agribusinessman, has been employed at Stauffer Homestead Farm, East Earl, since 1986. In addition, he has been involved in market lamb projects for the past two years.

Jeff has been ninth grade trea-

sure and second chaplain and second reporter during his FFA career at Garden Spot High School. He is also active in his church and youth group and has been an honor roll student at Garden Spot.

Runner-up in the Star Agribusinessman selection was Scott Hanna, Penn Manor. Other candidates for Star Agribusinessman were: Lynn Crills, Ephrata and Tim Zimmerman, Manheim Central.

The Grassland FFA had twelve Red Rose Degree recipients in total. They are: Michelle Arment, Kristin Chupp, Jeff Gehman, Phil Horning, Mike Lindemuth, Brock Martin, Jeff Martin, Mike O'Neill, Doug Nolt, Claire Redcay, Andy White, and Jeff Witwer.

Judges for the star farmer interview were Henry Givler, retired vocational consultant, Pennsylvania Department of Education, James A. Shirk, 1987 star farmer recipient, and Ed Donough, Ford New Holland.

Judges for the Star Agribusinessman were: John Wagner, White Oak Mills, William Shirk, Ford New Holland, Inc., and John Summy, 1987 Star Agribusinessman from the Manheim Chapter.

Farm Credit Develops A Country Home Loan

BALTIMORE, MD. — In an effort to diversify their loan portfolio, the Farm Credit Banks have developed a "country home loan" program which they hope will attract qualified borrowers throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Delaware.

What makes this program so attractive to both realtors and borrowers?

- Quick turn around from application to commitment.
- Streamlined "customer friendly" forms.
- No application fee.
- No origination fee.
- No private mortgage insurance.
- They are experts in rural property. The same person who takes the application (loan officer), does the appraisal - no appraisal fees.
- No tax escrow.
- No credit check fees.
- Loan decisions are made at the local office.
- Competitive interest rates;

both fixed and adjustable rate mortgages available.

• Local office services borrower for the life of the loan - no secondary markets.

These distinctive characteristics also apply to loans for remodeling, repairing, and improving existing property and for construction loans. The real appeal on construction loans is the same interest rate stays on the loan from beginning to end and only one loan closing is required.

Baltimore is the second district in the Farm Credit System and currently lends to 53,000 borrowers in Puerto Rico and the five states it services.

NFU Opposes Decoupling Proposals

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Proposals which would "decouple" farm program price supports from production programs met opposition at the 86th annual convention of the National Farmers Union.

In policy adoption Tuesday afternoon, delegates to the farm convention opposed decoupling programs which would substitute direct payments for price supports. The farm organization considers "decoupling" as a means of putting "farmers on welfare," according to a Farmers Union spokesman. "Farmers want federal program payments to help recover their cost of producing the food. These payments are actually subsidies to consumers that pass through the hands of farmers," he explained.

The farm convention called upon Congress to develop a "simplified and more direct farm program that returns to the goal of assuring producers a reasonable livelihood by providing price and income protection on a family farm level of production."

The NFU delegates said minimum price support levels should be established at least at 110 percent of the cost of production. The convention further suggested that mandatory market management programs, using marketing quotas and certificates, be established through producer referendums.

Stressing the need for targeting of farm programs to family-sized farm operators, the Farmers Union convention called for tiered marketing quotas, set asides, and price supports, together with overall and per program limitations. The limitations would include a cap on the total amount of CCC loans that any farmer could receive in any one year.

In addition the farm group said off-farm entities, such as corporations limited partnerships, and non-resident aliens should not be eligible for any farm program benefits.

The Farmers Union convention argued that the market-oriented label given to current farm policies is inaccurate. "These programs have been supply-oriented in operation, and are not concerned with fairness or stability of prices and income for farmers."

The farm convention questioned whether the CCC sales violated Congressional intent, pointing to a provision of law which prohibits CCC from selling grain stocks for less than 115 percent of the national average loan rate.

