

Lancaster County Vo-Tech Students Win District Contests

LANCASTER — Students from the three Lancaster County area vocational technical schools recently earned recognition at the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) district competitions.

Students from Brownstown and Willow Street Vo-Tech schools competed in District 4 competition on February 24. Mount Joy Vo-Tech School students competed in District 5 competition on February 16. All first-place winners earn the chance to compete at the VICA State Skill Olympics on April 12, 13 and 14, at Seven Springs.

First-place winners from Brownstown Vo-Tech School include: Wendi Specht, Ephrata, cake decorating; Daryl Nissley, Warwick, industrial electricity; Steve Adams, Warwick, residential wiring; Jonathan Giza, Garden Spot, welding; Shgufta Virmani (Health Assistant), Warwick, job skill demonstration; and Stephanie Showalter (Health Assistant), Conestoga Valley, prepared speech.

First-place winners from Mount Joy include: Victor Growden, Eli-

zabethtown, auto service specialization; Donna Ecenrode, Manheim Central, painting and decorating; and Dhruvi Patel, Hempfield, nurse assisting.

First-place winners from Willow Street include: Victor Knight, Penn Manor, computer aided drafting, and Brian (Scott) Rohrer, Hempfield, commercial air conditioning.

Additional places from Brownstown include: James Keen, Ephrata, second, cabinetry and millwork; Dean Mark Crouse, Cocalico, second, carpentry; Lonnie Chapin, Garden Spot, second, commercial baking; Daniel Hugo, Warwick, second, electronics technology; Amy Stout, Manheim Township, second, nurse assisting; Ngoc (Chris) Pham, Manheim Township, second, extemporaneous speaking; Jay May, Warwick, third, auto service technician; Chad Rhoads, Warwick, third, air cooled gasoline engine repair; Stacey Funk, Cocalico, third, data entry; and Erick Anderson, Solanco, third, diesel mechanics.

Additional places from Mount Joy include: Paul Mosteller, Col-

umbia, second, air cooled gasoline engine repair; Mike Long, Donegal, second, cabinetry and millwork; John Royer, Elizabethtown, second, residential wiring; Jay Pennell, Donegal, second, commercial baking; Rebecca Morrison, Manheim Central, third, job skill demonstration; Kenneth Shuman, Elizabethtown, third, carpentry; Blake Martin, Manheim Central, third, residential plumbing; Richard Templin, Elizabethtown, third, culinary arts; and

Scott Zimmerman, Hempfield, third, auto body repair.

The opening and closing team, which also earned third place, included: Jen Dambach, Brian Hackley, Todd Miller, and Anne Marie O'Donnell from Hempfield; Duane Reed, Elizabethtown; Rob Sopko and Steve Kline, Columbia; and alternate team member, Reed Boring, Donegal.

Additional places from Willow Street include: Heather Long, Sol-

anco, second, advertising design; Lisa Eck, Hempfield, second, dental assisting; Scott Asper, Solanco, second, industrial electricity; Chuck Manners, Conestoga Valley, third, advertising design; Ted Ames, McCaskey, third, cabinetry and millwork; Michael Dearolf, Penn Manor, third, electronics technology; Fred Oatman, Solanco, third, residential wiring; and Jack DeFranco, Solanco, third, extemporaneous speaking.

Farmers Union Evaluation Calls '85 Farm Bill Schizophrenic

LITTLE ROCK, AR. — An analysis of the 1985 Farm Bill released by the Board of the National Farmers Union (NFU) at the group's annual convention here concludes that the U.S. cannot afford a continuation of the current farm program.

The evaluation, titled "The Food Security Act of 1985, Pluses and Minuses," states that the '85 Farm Bill could have been effective but that discretionary measures allowing administrators to lower loan rates hurt farmers and cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

The NFU analysis says the current farm program actually affected the structure of agriculture. The report points out that twelve percent of U.S. farmers went out of business during the last decade, most of which operated medium sized farms. NFU

leaders say new farm programs need to target benefits toward small and medium sized farms. The major problems with the administration of the current law, the report says, is that "discretionary price cuts were used to depress prices below the statutory price support levels" in an effort to improve the competitiveness of U.S. farm products in world markets. In addition, NFU says Commodity Credit Corporation dumping practices further depressed prices. NFU leaders say Congress had sought to eventually raise commodity prices by reducing supplies, but that whenever prices began to rally, CCC stocks were dumped onto the market, keeping available supplies heavy and prices low. The NFU says this contradiction in purposes led to lower farm income, and cost the government an average of 17 billion dollars a year this decade.

Finally, the NFU says that export bonuses, and lower prices did not improve the U.S. export market share. In fact, the report says recent USDA statistics show that the U.S. market share is actually slipping for some commodities.

The position paper says there are some positive aspects of the '85 bill that should be modified slightly and placed into the next farm program. These include soil conservation provisions, which the report says should be broadened to include groundwater protection; farm credit, which NFU says was drastically improved by the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987; research and extension, which the officials say should be refocused to developing new crops, and uses and spurring demand for existing crops; and the peanut, sugar, and wool and mohair programs.

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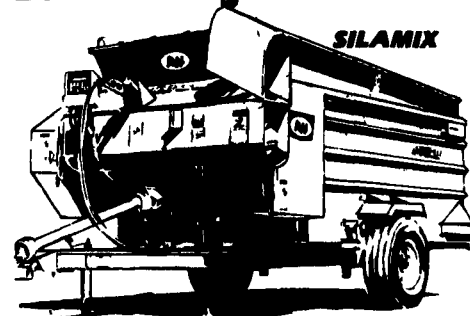
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