

# Brothersvalley FFA Holds Banquet

**GAY N. BROWNLEE BERLIN (Somerset Co.)** — The 54th annual Berlin-Brothersvalley FFA Member-Parent Banquet hosted some 180 persons, despite competition from a rescheduled girls' championship basketball game that was underway nearby, and severe winter conditions that were canceling many meetings.

The FFA banquet is always held in conjunction with National FFA week, according to chapter adviser Doyle Paul.

Guest speaker was state Chaplain Steve Landis, member of the local FFA chapter whose address concerned achieving goals.

"No matter what your goal," said Landis, "work hard and never give up." Landis said, "If you don't care where you are going, any road will get you there."

Landis told his audience, "The true joy of life is the trip," and

"Regret and fear are thieves that rob us of today."

Keeping the spectators in rapt attention was the cider pressing demonstration, by the state demonstration team of Eric Landis, Bryan Sarver and Jonathan Smiley.

It was learned through the demonstration commentary that combining a variety of apples makes a better cider product. One should select apples that will give a good combination of "sweetness, tartness, and tanginess."

The fellows blended Cortland, Winesap and Red Delicious apples for the demonstration. They explained that proper preparation and cleanliness are necessary to making quality apple cider, as well as proper straining and storage in various types of containers. Clear glass is preferable, they said. The keeping quality of cider is related to how it is stored.

"Squeezing For Profit," was the demonstration title which earned state gold medals for the trio.

Winners of the state agricultural record book contest and recipients of gold medals were Eric Landis and Steve Landis. Winning categories for both young men were in on-farm work experience (400 hours and under), home-garden, and swine finishing.

Following with state silver medals were Bill Hersch for on-farm work experience, 1,201 hours and over; James Burkholder, on-farm work experience 401 hours to 800 hours.

State bronze medals went to Eric Landis for off-farm work experience 400 hours and under and to Jason Baughman for field corn.

For high achievements last summer at Penn State Activities Week gold medals went to Matt Welch, state FFA dairy cattle

judging; Jason Baughman, state FFA extemporaneous public speaking; Allen Durst, state FFA chorus participant; and Jonathan Smiley, state FFA chapter delegate.

Eric Landis won a silver medal, taking eighth place in the state FFA interview contest. Michael Griffith won a bronze medal, taking 13th place in the state FFA agricultural salesmanship contest.

Keystone Farmer Degree recipients were Michael Cooney, Matthew Foor and Jeremy Hay.

It was noted by Adviser Paul that Cooney was the first Brothersvalley FFA member to have studied abroad, spending 10 months in Germany and, later, time in Japan.

Michael Cotter, Berlin, who achieved the highest honor of American Farmer, was unable to attend the ceremony because, it was announced, his wife was about to deliver their child at a nearby hospital.

Chapter Farmer Degree recipients were Matthew Coleman, Shawn Fochtman, Daryl Gindlesperger, Jason Ickes, Darren Little and Steven Platt.

Chapter scholarship pins and certificates went to W.J. Cober, Greg Comell, Allen Durst, Brian Gary, Spencer Glessner, Eric Landis and Harry Ritchey.

County agricultural record book contest winners were: Jason Baughman, first place in dairy calf, dairy cow, dairy heifer and field corn; Eric Landis, first place in home-garden, swine finishing, both off-farm and on-farm work experience 400 hours and under; James Burkholder, first place in on-farm work experience 401 to 800 hours; Bill Hersch, first place in on-farm work experience 1,201 hours and over; Jonathan Smiley, second in field corn; Steve Landis, second place, home and garden

and swine finishing, and on-farm work experience 400 hours and under; Allen Durst, second place, off-farm work experience 400 hours and under; Brian Sarver, second place, on-farm work experience 401 to 800 hours; Allen Durst, third place, on-farm work experience 400 hours and under; Kenneth Benning, sixth place in swine finishing.

The one-acre corn growing contest trophies were presented by W.J. (Dub) Brant from the Pioneer Seed Co. to Danny Delancy and Chad Webreck for above 146 bushels; and to Jason Baughman, Bill Hersch and Jonathan Smiley for 125-145 bushels.

Basketball pins were given to Jason Becker, Travis Booth, Matthew Coleman, Lonnie Coughenour, Allen Durst, Matt Foor, Mike Griffith, Jeremy Hay, Travis Ingrodi, Mike Platt, and Chad Webreck.

Volleyball pins were given to Doug Bell, Travis Booth, Greg Cornell, Lonnie Coughenour, Allen Durst, Matt Foor, Jeff Gary, Elisha Ogburn and Bryan Sarver.

FFA sports coaches were Robert Czekaj and Mike Walker. Eric Landis sold 200 boxes of citrus fruit for the local FFA chapter and received a gift from Diversified Marketing Association.

Leon Paul, of Garrett, was named the 38th Honorary Member of the Brothersvalley FFA chapter.

A past president of the local FFA chapter and state officer, Paul and his wife, Dorothy Jane, operate Clover Hill Farms near Berlin. He is a member of the Berlin-Brothersvalley Young Farmers, the Grange, Berlin-Brothersvalley Community Fair Association, and several agricultural boards. He has supported the local FFA chapter continuously.

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State record book award medal winners from the Brothersvalley FFA are, from the left, Bill Hersch, Jason Baughman, James Burkholder, Steve Landis and Eric Landis.

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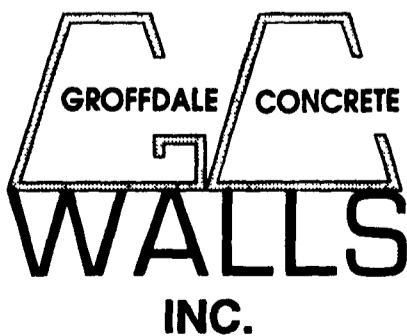
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