

Awards For Cloister FFA

CAROL STARK
Special to Lancaster Farming

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — The Cloister Chapter of FFA held its 33rd annual banquet at the Mt. Airy Fire Hall on March 25.

As agriculture has changed so has today's FFA. Serving the career needs of a broad and dynamic industry, today's FFA combines marketing, agri-science and computer technology with the leadership and achievement programs that have always been hallmarks of the organization.

The industry of agriculture has changed so drastically since its beginning, but it has been through that change that agriculture has remained a strong, vital and profitable example of how ancient practices can successfully be combined with modern science and technology.

It is through the FFA and programs like the Young Farmers that this change can successfully continue.

The population of farmers has dropped incredibly. In the 1700s almost 100 percent of the population were farmers. Now farmers make up only two percent of the population but approximately 22 million people are still making their living from one of more than 200 agricultural-related fields.

Before the industrial revolution each farmer raised little more than enough food to feed his family. Today, one farmer alone feeds more than 127 people. It is through FFA programs and education that this has become possible.

Scientists and engineers work hand-in-hand on a wide range of projects. They are currently designing robotic harvesting equipment and laser guided machinery that have the potential to save the farmer countless hours of field time. FFA students learn

ways to produce disease resistant hybrid plants and plants that actually repel costly insects. Approximately 32 percent of employment opportunities for FFA students and ag graduates are in the marketing, merchandising, and salesmanship fields.

It is through this education that marketing specialists combine their knowledge of food production, processing, and distribution with their excellent business skills to find the most profitable means of marketing for farmers.

As the United States is responsible for almost one fifth of the world's agricultural trade, the importance of emphasizing premier leadership, personal growth and career success, FFA and agricultural education can not be underrated.

Food is an enormous industry. The United States food system accounts for more than \$625 billion, or more than 20 percent of our gross national product each year.

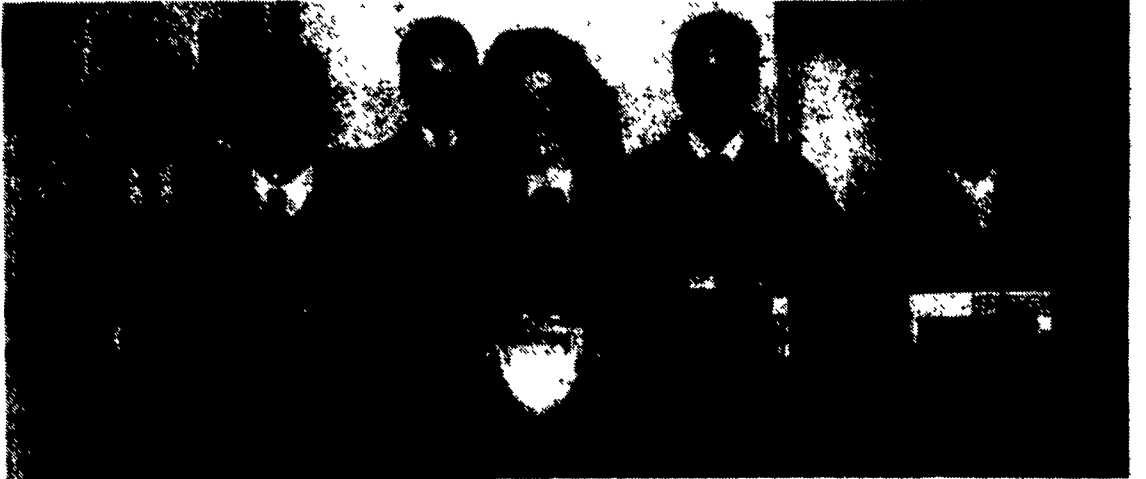
Agricultural education students learn to respect the processes of nature through instruction in plant, animal and environmental sciences. Students gain an appreciation for advances in technology as computers and microscopes become as common as chalkboards in their classrooms.

No one can predict what the future holds, but everyone can do something today to ensure a better tomorrow. FFA continues to do its part to provide agriculture leadership for America.

Foundation Awards include Specialty Crop Production, Matthew Miller; Agricultural Mechanics, Cory Silfies; Home and Farmstead Improvement, Doug Groff; Ag Sales and Service, Connie Nolt and Scott Garman; Placement in Ag Production, Lewis Horning; Fish and Wildlife Management, Kathy Hurst; Sheep Production,



Proficiency Awards were awarded to, back row from left, Ed McKinney, Lewis Horning, Scott Garman, Matt Miller, Connie Nolt and Kathy Hurst. Front row: Keith Bollinger, Scott Martin, Ginny Nolt, Dale Zimmerman, Kevin Martin and Eric Warner.



The Star Awards went to, from left, Jared Rottmund, Andy Bollinger, Dale Zimmerman, Ginny Nolt, Bronson Reedy and Anthony Burkholder.

Keith Bollinger; Fruit and Vegetable Production, Seth Burkholder; Horse Proficiency, Scott Martin; Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Virginia Nolt; Horse Production, Kristy Keith; Floriculture, Eric

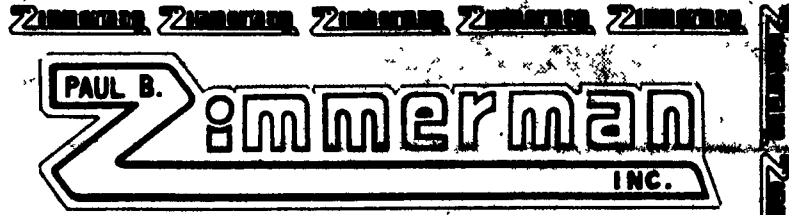
Warner; Specialty Animal Production, and Kevin Martin.

Star Awards were as follows: Star Greenhand Ag Production, Dale Zimmerman; Star Greenhand in Ag Business, Bronson Reedy;

Star Chapter Farmer, Jared Rottmund; Star Chapter Agribusinessman, Anthony Burkholder; Star Red Rose Agribusinessman, Ginny Nolt; and Star Chapter and County

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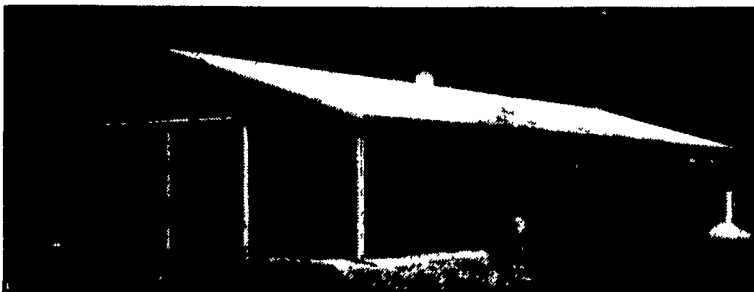
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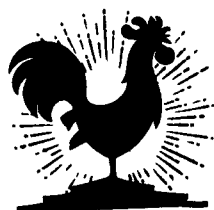
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