

FFA HAPPENINGS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Cedar Crest FFA Chapter has been named the Pennsylvania state winner in the National FFA Organization's Commodity Marketing Activity.

The Commodity Marketing Activity is an integrated classroom activity that helps students gain a realistic commodity market experience. Teams of students are given a model farm with corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle and hogs. Team members decide when to buy and sell these products to achieve the greatest economic gain. Orders are called to a "broker" and the trade is recorded. Real prices and market conditions are experienced but no money is ex-

changed.

The specific objectives of the activity are to: (1) learn the decision-making process, (2) manage the risk of a commodity market, (3) practice various methods of marketing farm products, (4) understand various career opportunities in marketing, (5) use applied mathematics in marketing, (6) understand terms and strategies of various marketing methods, (7) to experience the mechanics of trading and (8) to have a "real marketing experience."

At the conclusion of the trading period, a test is administered to each of the teams. The best covers commodity marketing principals and practices used in the futures

market. The teams' scores for both the trading activity and the test are combined and the state winner is then determined.

Each participating team receives a certificate and the winning team will receive a \$100 or \$300 scholarship based on the number of teams participating, scholarship moneys will be divided among team members and a plaque will be provided for the school.

The Commodity Marketing Activity is sponsored by the Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.



Cedar Crest FFA members receiving their plaque and check for winning the National FFA Commodity Marketing Activity from Dr. Thomas Bruening, assistant professor of agricultural education at Penn State University, are, front row, left to right, Jason Hess and Kevin Putt. Back row, left to right, Don Atkins, Chris Kepley, and Dr. Thomas Bruening.

Herbs Bring Aroma Of Success

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Herbs — once used for everything from stomach ache remedies to air fresheners — have made a comeback. "Interest in herbs has increased rapidly in the past few years," says Keppy Arnoldsen, horticulture graduate student in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Last year Arnoldsen and Aimee Voisin, a senior majoring in horticulture, completed an independent study project growing 67 herbs in an ornamental plot at Penn State's Trial Gardens. Their demonstration garden provided information used to compile a Penn State publication entitled "Herbs for the Home Gardener." This 68-page publication has 58 colored illustrations and information on 32 herbs, including common and scientific names, plant characteristics, hardiness, size, soil preference, propagation, pests and disease, bloom time and color and uses for the herbs.

"Many commercial growers are finding it lucrative to sell herbs wholesale to garden centers and stores. There's also a large market in dried herbs for decorations, teas, cooking and other uses. You can make a career out of herbs," says Arnoldsen.

Voisin plants to do just that. "Herbs have such unusual textures, colors and scents. I got interested in them when I worked in a greenhouse after graduating from high school," she says. "I started buying books about herbs, and how I've decided to become a wholesaler and sell dried herb products.

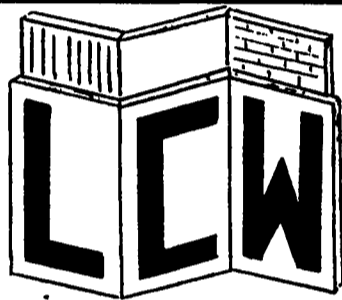
"It's one thing to read about herbs in a book,

and it's another to grow them," says Voisin. "We had some surprises in our independent study. Some plants turned out to be incredibly bushy and took up three times the space we

thought they would. And I never realized that cilantro and coriander are really the same plant — one is the leaf and one is the seed."

"Herbs for the Home Gardener" is available

for \$8 from county cooperative extension offices or from the Publication Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802.



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