

## 4-H'er Parlays Project Into Profits

NEWARK, Del.— Like any good business person, Chris Breeding, 14, gets a little cagey when he talks about exactly how much profit he's making on his vegetable garden and stand. But it is enough to put a third back into the farm, a third toward family vacations, and another third to split between Chris and his 11-year-old brother Steve.

As a member of Stateline 4-H club in Seaford, Chris began a vegetable gardening project in 1989. Since then, it has grown from a 100 by 200 feet plot in 1989 to 2.5 acres planted this year. He's had to enlist the help of his brother and his mother, Sue, and father, Ron.

His garden was so prolific, Chris decided to set up a roadside stand — Little Boys' Produce Wagon on Route 20 west of Seaford. His biggest sellers are tomatoes, corn, watermelons, and cantaloupe. But he grows 10 additional kinds of vegetables.

Joy Sparks, University of Delaware state 4-H program coordinator, said it's not unusual for kids to turn their 4-H projects into profit-making enterprises.

"To listen to these kids talk about their profits and how they're going to invest them, you'd think they'd been in business for years," she said. "And they are happy to share what they've learned with others."

Chris said he had the benefit of learning the ropes of an agricultural business from his grandfather. But Chris will extend this knowledge to others later this month.

He'll be giving a demonstration — The What, When, Where and Why of Vegetable Gardening — at the Delaware State Fair as part of the State 4-H Demonstration competition.

"Gardening and working at the produce wagon means putting in long hours," Chris said. "My typical day begins around 6:30 a.m. and ends around 9:30 p.m. It's seven days a week for about eight

weeks."

The brothers share most of the load by each working an hour on and an hour off at the stand. That way they can each have a break.

"Gardening is a lot of hard work, but it is fun," he said. "It has taught me so many things."

Chris says he's learned to plan ahead, to take time to prepare the soil, and to keep on top of watering and weeding throughout the sea-

son. He's also learned that quality and customer service will build repeat business.

"I found out that quality is important so I pick the vegetables fresh each day. If I have any left, I give people extra. I want them to come back."

His advice to other youthful entrepreneurs? Don't give up. It's hard at first, but you can overcome any difficulties.

## Health Care Reform Debate Needs Shift Toward Reality

ALBANY, N.Y. — The state's leading farm and rural advocacy group is urging members of the New York congressional delegation to move the health care reform debate away from more government and toward making the individual more responsible. According to New York Farm Bureau President Charles E. Wille, "Making the individual the consumer instead of insurance companies will curb the exploding cost of health care."

Wille said the hallmark of Farm Bureau's legislative position on health care reform is to create a

mechanism where the individual takes charge of their own health care.

"We believe that Congress should create medical savings accounts for individual Americans. The establishment of medical savings accounts would allow individuals to set aside money in anticipation of future health care costs."

He said, "If the individual pays for his or her own medical bills, the medical costs will come down. They would directly buy their own catastrophic health insurance and directly pay their health care provider for everyday medical costs."

Wille said that Farm Bureau would like to see farms and other small businesses get the same tax benefits already afforded to the big corporations — a 100 percent tax reduction for those who self-finance their health insurance. He noted that farmers would also like to see health care policy that promotes personal wellness, fitness, and preventive care.

To help those who cannot meet their own medical costs, Wille indicated that Farm Bureau supports direct financial assistance to pay for their health care needs. As a

means of making health care operate more efficiently, the farm community supports a number of positions, including the following: development of legislation that will lead to a periodic review of regulations impacting the delivery of health care; privately funded optional health care delivery systems, such as health maintenance organizations; properly compensating providers for treating Medicare and Medicaid patients; and efforts to improve the availability and delivery of health care in rural areas.

## Family, Agent Honored By 4-H

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Three generations of the Markline-Waltmyer family of Madonna, Harford County, were named "4-H Family of the Year" during the Maryland 4-H Recognition Program recently at the state fairgrounds in Timonium.

The Waltmyers include John and Marta Waltmyer and son B.J., 12 and daughter Kara, 15, in addition to grandparents Dorothy and Ben Markline.


Also recently recognized was Dr. Richard R. Angus, who retired a year ago after more than 35 years of service to 4-H programs in both Minnesota and Maryland as a cooperative extension service professional. Angus continues to work part-time at the Maryland 4-H Center as a volunteer. He is current O'Chief of the Maryland 4-H All Stars organization and is national president of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the honorary fraternity for professional extension workers.



Dr. Richard R. Angus gives his acceptance speech after being inducted into the Maryland 4-H Hall of Fame.



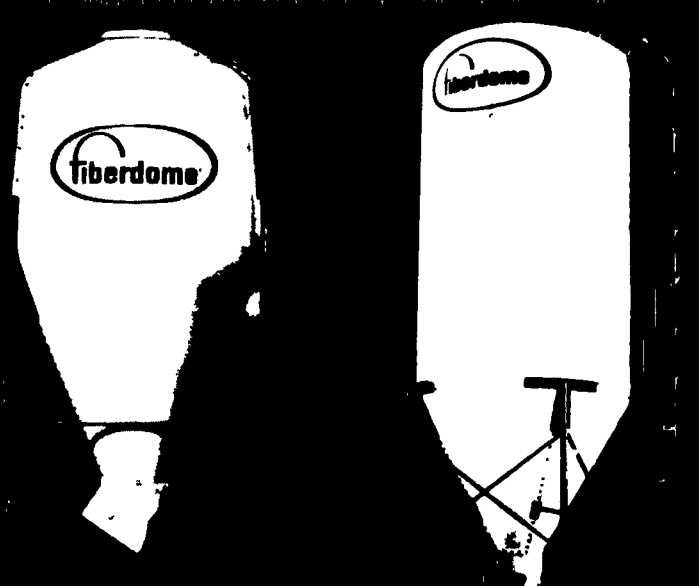
Three generations of the Markline-Waltmyer family of Madonna, Harford County, show off their plaque after being named 4-H Family of the Year during the Maryland 4-H recognition program. Seated, left to right, B.J. Waltmyer, 12; his grandmother, Dorothy Markline; and his grandfather, Ben Markline. Standing are B.J.'s parents, John and Marta Waltmyer. Not present was B.J.'s sister, Kara, 15.



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