

# Brubaker Star Farmer, Speaker Of N.C. House

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
MT JOY (Lancaster Co.) — Every year youth are asked to tell what career or long-term goals they envision for them-

selves, especially youth who receive honors, such as the FFA Keystone farmer degree.

Almost exactly 32 years ago, a 17-year-old senior at Donegal High School was honored for

receiving an FFA keystone farmer degree, the regional star farmer award, and the state star farmer award.

At that time, he wanted to be involved in genetics or become a

field man for the Holstein Association, and own a farm.

In a few weeks, the now 49-year-old man who has since relocated to North Carolina, is to be sworn into office as speaker of the House in the Tarheel General Assembly.

Harold Brubaker, son of Paul N. and Verna Brubaker, of Mt. Joy, was back in Lancaster County over the Christmas holiday to visit with his parents and old friends.

He lives in Asheboro, N.C. with his wife Gerladine, a school nurse, and children Jonathan, 14, and Justin 10. Brubaker is president of a real estate appraisal and consulting firm and has served in the North Carolina legislature as a representative since 1977.

He also owns a 30-acre farm and raises Belgian Blue beef cattle — a breed that produces extraordinary amounts of lean meat.

On Wednesday, at his parents' 75-acre beef farm, Brubaker talked about his outlook as a young adult involved in FFA, the enjoyment of being involved in the Witness Oak FFA Chapter, and the importance of the FFA experience in helping him have the confidence and background to be able to function well in meeting the demands of a variety of jobs.

Brubaker earned numerous agricultural awards while in high school.

By age 16, he had already won the title as top dairy cattle judge in the state in 1962 and competed at nationals; he also was a star chapter dairyman and star chapter poultry farmer; he won a state essay contest run by the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives; he was the youngest ever to win the Holstein Boy of the Year award.

In FFA, he also served as state secretary and as a national vice president for the North Atlantic region, and toured the country speaking to different groups.

He said in one year he traveled 60,000 miles, and at one point was in San Francisco one day and in Bangor, Maine, the next.

He said that traveling around and meeting people was something he enjoyed, and it helped get him interested in politics. He said meeting Oregon's former Sen. Wayne Morris, who ran for several

terms as a Democrat, and then as a Republican helped him also.

According to Harold, he asked the senator if he thought a farmboy could become a senator, and that Morris answered, "What do you think I am? I'm a sheep farmer."

But one can be fairly certain that Brubaker was not about to accept an answer that would have placed limits on what a farmboy can do.

When at 16, interviewed by a Lancaster newspaper after receiving an award from the newspaper, Brubaker was quoted as saying, "The whole agricultural field has vast possibilities. There is a great future in farming and in the not-too-distant future, the farmer is going to be regarded in the same manner as professional people such as doctors and lawyers are today."

"However, education of the farmer is the greatest need. Especially in this mechanized era when so much depends on know-how to reap the top benefits from acreage."

According to the article, he had owned 16 registered Holsteins and three Brown Swiss, and was planning to rent a 67-acre farm and pay rent on it by raising tobacco in order to compete for the top FFA award. He was quoted as saying, "The larger my farming program, the more chance I have of winning."

His plans were to possibly go into partnership with his father on the family farm, and perhaps own a farm of his own some day, but to have it managed by someone else, while he pursued a career related to agriculture, in genetics or as a field man for the state Holstein Association.

The same year that Brubaker was named state star farmer, Donald Norman, now owner of a registered Jersey herd at Breezalee Farms in Liberty, also earned his Keystone Farmer Degree.

This week, Norman said he remembers Brubaker.

Norman said he first met Brubaker at a leadership conference offered by the Pennsylvania Association of Cooperatives. According to Donald, Brubaker entertained the group with his portrayal of Professor Schnitzel — a then-popular fictional character whose

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From the left, the Harold Brubaker family stands in front of the Mt. Joy farmhouse where Harold was born and his parents still live. From the left if Geraldine, Jonathan, Justin and Harold. Brubaker is about to be named speaker of the house for the North Carolina House of Representatives. He credits FFA and goal setting for his successes.



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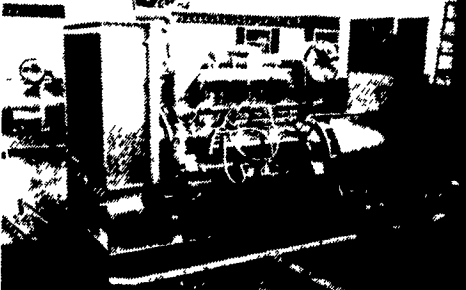
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