

Brubaker Star Farmer, Speaker Of N.C. House

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humor routine was based on aspects of language and communication by the Pennsylvania-Dutch.

At his parents' home, Brubaker pointed to an older console record player and said that was where he played his album of the professor until he could also perform the humor.

"I can't sing or play an instrument," Brubaker said, "and I was in this talent contest, so I had to do something."

But Brubaker said the main things that helped him achieve successes has been goal setting and planning. "If you don't set goals, you can't achieve goals," he said.

According to both Brubaker and Norman, FFA prepared them both for being involved with organizational activities that affect their

life. It gave them a background and confidence to speak in front of others that few educational programs today can offer.

Brubaker said especially important for him was learning parliamentary procedure and public speaking through FFA and vocational agricultural.

He said that when he was in FFA, "I remember thinking, 'Why do we need this, if we're going to be farming?'" But then an advisor told him that if he didn't learn how to speak in front of a group of people and develop confidence, people would laugh at him if he tried. Brubaker said he decided to learn.

But while fear of ridicule has motivated many for self-improvement, the real reason to learn the basics of democratic procedure is so the individual can remain an individual.

"You never know when you're going to have to reach back and use those skills," he said. "They are the greatest skills you can have, along with writing."

"All that is why I think it is important to continue (FFA programs) in high school. And if not in high school, 4-H is a place to learn it, but it's so important."

"It's like learning to swim — you never know when your going to need the skill," Brubaker said.

His political career really started, he said, after graduating from Penn State with a degree in agricultural economics. He took a job in North Carolina teaching agricultural business, and within six months a friend got him involved in the Young Republican organization there. Six months later, he was chairman of the committee.

Two years later, he was assistant secretary of the state Republican party of North Carolina, and after turning down several invitations to run for certain offices, he decided to accept a third invitation to run for the House. He said he figured it was time to say, "Yes."

While all this was going on, he finished a master's degree in economics from NCU and also became involved in real estate appraisals.

He said that a class in agricultural land appraisal in school and when he was teaching at the community college in Randolph County, N.C., where he lives, he saw that no one was doing a good, in-depth analysis of property values. He became the first in the county and now employs more than a half-dozen people in that business.

About that same time, he helped start a 4-H dairy club in the county that still continues.

Currently his 70 Belgian Blue cattle occupy much of his free time. One of seven certified judges of the cattle in the United States, he also serves on the board of directors of the U.S. breed organization.

He has been breeding Belgian's for low birth weights and has picked up and developed a line with offspring averaging about 67 pounds. He traveled to Belgium and England and Canada to seek out the stock he currently has.

But after all these successes,

Brubaker gives credit to those who taught him and guided him, and to the programs offered, such as FFA.

Donald Norman, whose family is associated with the state Jersey Cattl Association, said he agrees.

"I'm a strong supporter of FFA. It's one of those educational systems that people don't recognize the importance of what's being done. It's one of the few places where students have an opportunity to stand up in front of adults to speak publicly in front of adults. There's so many things that FFA did right."

"I like to talk about the assembly line of education," Norman said, referring to the general public education system. "You run (children) into the room and talk at them. It's very efficient. It's the Henry Ford system of education."

"But FFA gave you the opportunity to do things with your hands, and with academics. We took the academic and vo-ag combination," Norman said. "It gives a good balance. A lot of these students today can't do anything with their hands. Just sitting and listening to a teacher doesn't mean you can do it."

As far as the successes that were achieved by Brubaker, Norman said, "I'm not surprised. The only surprise is that I expected him to be in Harrisburg (as a political representative), instead of North Carolina."



Harold Brubaker stands with some Holstein-cross beef animals. The calf is a Belgian Blue/Holstein. One of the top breeders of Belgian Blue beef cattle in the United States, he has developed a low-birth weight line and his nephew has been working to use the 50/50 Holstein cross for superior beef production.

Dairy Farmer Elected Farm Bureau V.P.

CALLICOON, N.Y. — Jon Greenwood of Canton has been elected vice president of the 25,000-member New York Farm Bureau at the organization's state convention at the Villa Roma Resort Hotel.

Along with his wife, Linda, and three children, Jon owns and operates a 200-cow dairy farm with 500 acres of field crops and 100 fallow deer. A graduate of LEAD NY (the former Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute) he has been on the board of directors of the New York Farm Bureau for the last five years.

He is also on several New York Farm Bureau state committees, including the Executive Committee of the State Board of Directors, the Audit Committee, the Executive Committee of Safety Group #486 vice chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and chairman of the Dairy Advisory Committee. On the national level, he is a member of the American Farm Bureau's Dairy Advisory Committee.

He is a past president of the St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau and a past state chairman of New York Farm Bureau's State Young Farmer Committee.

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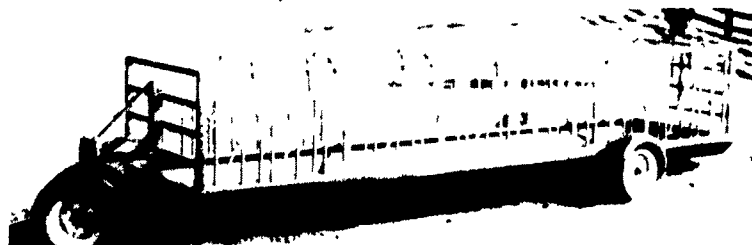
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