

# Boop Receives American FFA Degree

A long list of achievements in agriculture has earned national recognition for a 91-year-old Millmont resident.

Douglas Boop, a sales representative for the Mifflinburg Farmers Exchange, is among a select group nationwide to receive the prestigious American FFA Degree.

Degree recipients must earn the FFA state degree, participate in chapter and state FFA activities, complete at least three years in an agricultural education program, and have an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program.

Their earnings and investments, hours worked in agriculture in addition to class time, leadership ability, community involvement and scholastic record also are considered.

A 1991 Mifflinburg Area High School graduate, Boop has been working on the dairy and crop farm operated by his parents, Gerald and Kathy Boop, "since he was old enough to go to the barn."

"I always wanted to be involved in farming," he said.

Dairy has been his major interest, and he has had champion animals at several dairy shows. He now has about 15 Holstein and Jersey animals, as well as crops—wheat, oats, corn and hay. His family's farm has more than 60 dairy animals and 300 acres of crops.

Boop has been active in the Mifflinburg FFA for seven years, earning its Star Greenhand award as a freshman and serving as its vice president and treasurer. He served as president of the SUN Area FFA as a senior, was named the SUN Area Star Farmer, and received the Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club Award for scholarship, leadership and supervised practice projects.

He also earned a state proficiency award in cereal grain production, a bronze medal in the state farm management contest, and a medal in the state agronomy contest. He was active in dairy judging competitions and received chapter proficiency awards in forage production and public speaking as well as project record book awards.

"Doug has an intense interest in agriculture and challenged himself to use that interest in his career," Mifflinburg agriculture education teacher David Woodling said. "He also showed tremendous leadership ability."

As a sales representative for the Mifflinburg Farmers Exchange, Boop helps other farmers develop dairy feed programs meeting nutrient requirements for body maintenance and milk production. He has seen how technology has changed feeding practices, and uses a computer program in his feed calculations.

"We help farmers use the for-

ages and grains they have, and add a nutrient concentrate customized to their needs," he said.

He visits farms in Center, Clin-

ton and Lycoming counties, and likes the opportunity to see others' farming practices, he said. He also has developed a feed program for his family's farm.

"Doug does a fine job with the feed programs," said Roger Shuck, Farmers Exchange President. "He has a good work ethic. He's responsible and well-liked."

## Cloister FFA At National Convention

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Five members of the Cloister FFA and their adviser, Mr. Kessler, attended the National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Mo. recently.

The group left Ephrata early Sunday morning Nov. 6. The first stop was in Ohio, where they visited The United States Air Force Museum.

Then they traveled to Indianapolis Museum and Speedway in Indiana.

Two interesting highlights in Illinois were Mark Twain's home and cave and Lincoln's home and tomb.

Touring through the Harry S. Truman Museum, Arabia Steamboat, Daniel Boone home, Mississippi Locks, and the American Royal Rodeo gave them insight to Missouri's history, industry, and entertainment.

The National FFA Convention Sessions started on Wednesday, Nov. 9. Sessions included sponsor

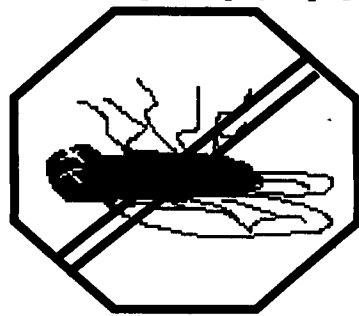
recognition, presenting awards, Laser Light Show, guest speakers, and installment of the 1994-1995

National FFA officers. The group returned to Ephrata on Monday, Nov. 14.



Cloister FFA at the National Convention. Back row, left to right, Dale Zimmerman, Connie Nolt, and Andy Bollinger. Front row, left to right, Keith Bollinger, and Jackie Ansel.

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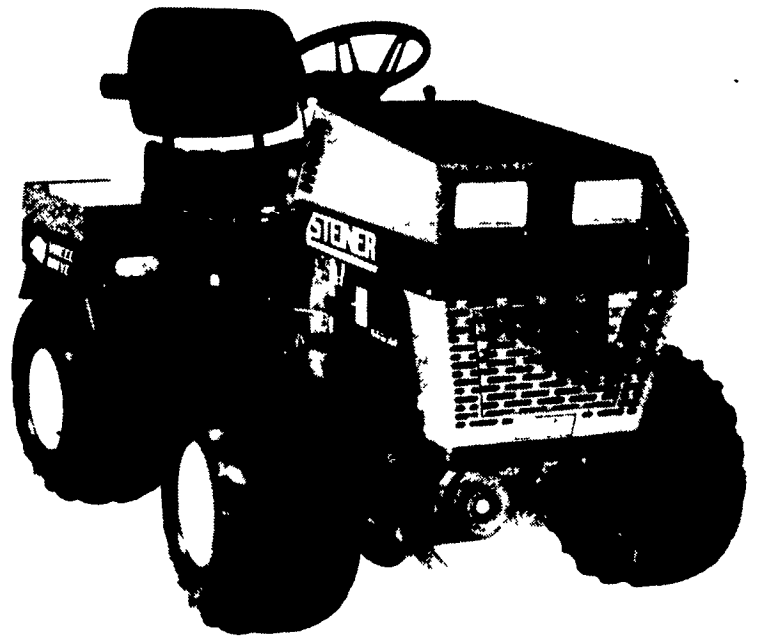
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