

# FFA HAPPENINGS

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Agricultural education and FFA activities help make students more valuable employees and business owners/operators, according to Heather Oberholtzer, 16, of Elizabethtown, state winner in FFA *New Horizons* magazine's "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest. Oberholtzer receives \$50 as the state winner. The chapter advisor is William Erikson.

More than 1,300 students competed in this year's contest. According to Chad Hammerschmidt, 18, of DeRidder, Louisiana, FFA has been "instrumental in

my understanding of land stewardship." Hammerschmidt's essay was chosen as the national first-place winner.

For 16-year-old Lyndy Paske of Lamesa, Texas, FFA and agricultural education develops both independence and interdependence. She cites initiative and teamwork as two skills that FFA has fostered in her.

National third-place winner Katie Rein, 15, of Big Timber, Montana, believes a valuable employee or business owner must possess leadership, responsibility, time management skills, and a

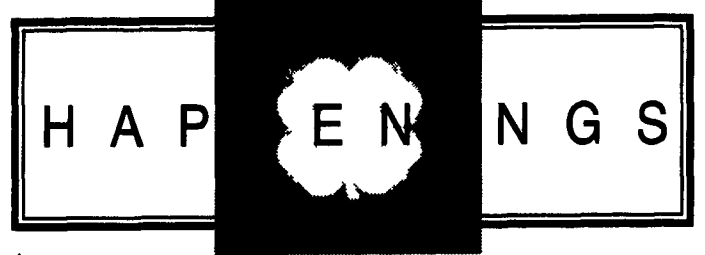
cooperative spirit.

Nathaniel Allen found "individual responsibility, initiative, and self-confidence all qualities I have enhanced through my FFA projects." The 18-year-old Ontario, Oregon, resident placed fourth in the national contest.

The "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest is sponsored by ICI Seeds, Inc., as a special project of the FFA Foundation for FFA *New Horizons* magazine. FFA *New Horizons* is the official publication for FFA members who are students of agricultural education.

FFA is a national organization of 428,109 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture. The organization has 7,545 local chapters located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Local, state, and national activities and award programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

*"Agricultural education has helped me to prepare for the future by teaching me teamwork, effective leadership, marketing skills, public speaking skills, and a greater respect for mankind. Agricultural sales and public speaking contests have helped me to learn the steps of marketing while communicating effectively with others. While delivering food boxes and gifts to the needy last Christmas, I gained a deeper respect for all individuals and have learned to ignore the labels placed upon people. I feel agricultural education activities have prepared me to meet many new people and gain confidence to meet the numerous obstacles in my future."*—Heather Oberholtzer



## Public Speaking Winner

Collegeville (Montgomery Co.) Montgomery County 4-H Coordinator Nancy Kadwill of Collegeville, right, presents the championship trophy to 4-H member Amy LeFore of Oregon for winning the public speaking contest at the Western National 4-H Horse Classic held recently in Denver, Colo. Kadwill served as a judge at that contest and also is superintendent of the team demonstration contest that is part of the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, KY each year. LeFore's topic was "Tribute to the Quarter Horse."



## Clipper Crusade

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—The Central PA Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association needs volunteers to clip articles about special events, telethon and muscular dystrophy in general that appear in your local or daily newspaper. The "clipper crusade"

will cover communities from Hanover to State College and East to Lancaster, areas in which MDA serve patients. Those interested in becoming a part of the crusade should call MDA at (717) 540-4316 and ask for Patti.

## Volunteers Needed

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—The Muscular Dystrophy Association needs help with general office duties, including answering phones, bulk mailings, stuffing envelopes, and helping prepare for various fund raising projects that may be held in your local community. Call MDA and ask for Patti at (717) 540-4316.

## Watch What You're Eating

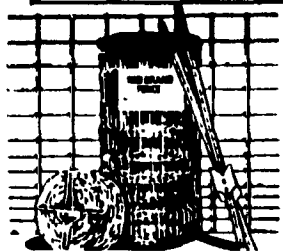
DOYLESTOWN (Chester Co.)—Penn State Cooperative Extension announces the start of the weight management class, MY NEW WEIGH OF LIFE. Classes will be held at the Whitmarsh Wm. Jeanes Memorial Library in Lafayette Hill, Wednesdays March 29-June 14, from 1 p.m.-3

p.m. To register send your name, address, and phone number, along with a check for \$60 registration fee to: Bucks County Cooperative Extension, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, PA 18901. Registration Deadline: March 13.

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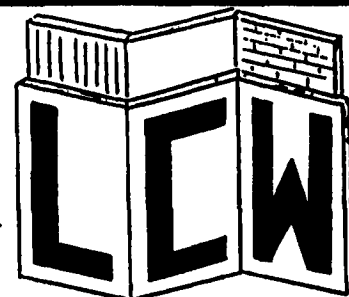
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