

FFA HAPPENINGS

Cedar Crest FFA Participates in State Record Book Contest

On January 10-11, the State FFA Record Book Contest was held at University Park.

More than 410 of the best record books from Pennsylvania were entered. The judges scored the books on accuracy, completeness, and neatness. Here are the Cedar Crest results: Dairy Herd—3rd Jeff Zimmerman (Gold Medal), 5th Stacy Krall (Silver Medal); Sheep Breeding—5th Wendy Atkins (Gold Medal); Sheep Finishing—21st Jon Harnish (Bronze Medal); Beef Breeding—7th Jon Harnish (Silver Medal); Beef Finishing—1st Jamie Risser (Gold Medal); Corn-Grain—1st Andy Martin (Gold Medal); Soybeans—1st Jon Harnish (Silver Medal); Greenhouse—1st Heather Orner (Gold Medal); On-Farm-Work-Experi-

ence—6th Keith Wartluft (Gold Medal), 8th Wendy Atkins (Gold Medal), 14th Jacob Frazier (Gold Medal), 58th Mike Hostetter (Bronze Medal); Practicum Skills—1st Chuck Aurentz (Gold Medal), 2nd Andy Martin (Gold Medal), 5th Bill Smeltzer (Silver Medal); and Junior Books—1st Ryan Gates (Silver Medal).

Maryland FFA Member Wins 'Up With Agriculture' Contest

Agricultural education and FFA activities help make students more valuable employees and business owners/operators, according to David O'Hara, 16, of Frederick, Md., state winner in FFA *New Horizons Magazine's* "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest.

O'Hara received \$50 as the state winner. The chapter advisers are Tom Hawthorne and Tonjia Mayne.

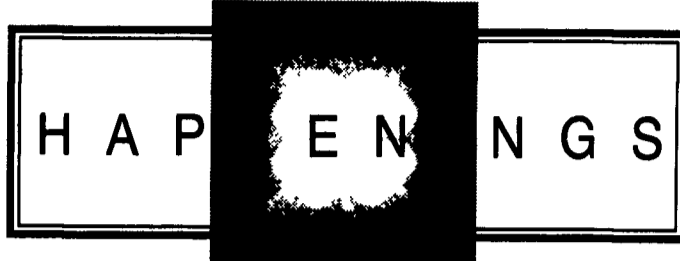
More than 1,300 students com-

peted in this year's contest. According to Chad Hammerschmidt, 18, of DeRidder, La., 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.

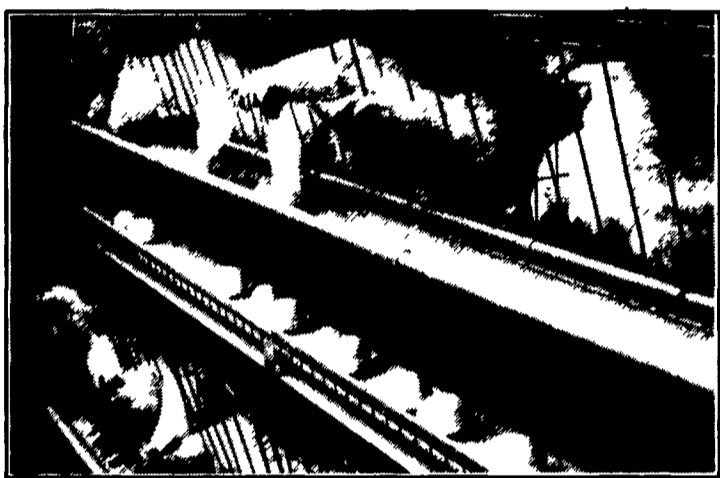
Nathaniel Allen found "individual responsibility, initiative, and self-confidence all qualities I have enhanced through my FFA projects." The 18-year-old Ontario, Oregon, resident placed fourth in the national contest.



Berks 4-H Beef Club
The Berks County 4-H Beef Club held an organizational meeting at the 4-H Center.

Newly elected officers are Troy Gelsinger, president; Kelly Diet-

rich, vice president; Ben Weist, secretary; Emilie Miller, treasurer; Kristy Dietrich and Kelly Holcombe, news reporters; and Mark Manwiller and Corey Eshbach, social chairmen.



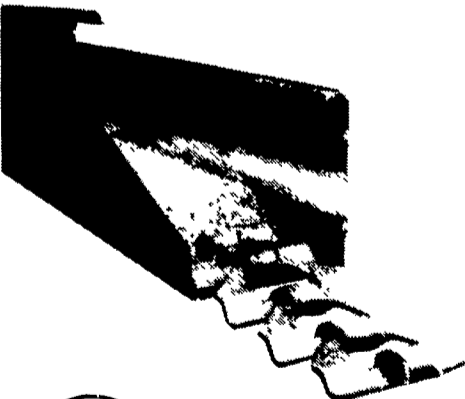
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Scrapie Meeting

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Sheep producers with questions and concerns regarding scrapie are invited to attend an information session at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center on Monday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Deborah Hawkins, veterinary medical officer with USDA/APHIS, will address the scrapie topic and answer producers' questions.

In the August 29, 1994 Federal Register, FDA proposed a rule to prohibit specified offal from adult (more than 12 months of age) sheep and goats for use in ruminant feed. FDA proposed this action because the specified offal might possibly contain the agent that causes scrapie, a sheep disease associated with the occurrence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Because FDA cannot positively rule out a direct association between scrapie, BSE, and human disease, FDA proposed this action to protect the health of animals and humans.

The occurrence of BSE in cattle has not been shown to cause disease in humans. On the other hand, the possibility of a causal relationship has not been disproved. BSE has not been diagnosed in the United States. However, sheep scrapie is present in the U.S. Therefore, FDA believes that the potential implications for human as well as animal health require regulatory action to minimize the possibility for the introduction of the disease into U.S. cattle.

