



Twin Valley FFA Members Excel At Contests

Members of the Twin Valley FFA recently competed in southeastern Pennsylvania FFA contests and came home as big winners.

In the dairy foods contest, freshmen Brandt Barndt and Jamie Powell tied for first place with Julie Peterson placing second, Angie Lynam third, and Katie Coffey fourth.

The team finished in first place.

Dairy foods contestants had to take written tests on milk production and marketing, identify off-flavors in milk, and give each sample a numerical score, identify problems with milker parts and give each set a numerical score, perform California Mastitis Tests and differentiate between real and artificial dairy products.

In the agricultural sales contest, senior Amanda Test captured first place with Andy Teter second and Keely Demarco fourth. The team captured first place. Sales contestants take a written test on sales information, give a sales presentation on a product of their choice, and perform a practicum skill.

This year's skill was to develop a newspaper advertisement for Pennsylvania agricultural products. Sales presentations include developing a product display, developing a written sales packet, and doing a sales presentation to a

panel of judges.

Wildlife competition also feature a first place Twin Valley team. Seniors Melissa Makris and Tara Plewa placed first and second, and sophomore Josh Lawrey placing 9th. Wildlife contestants take a written test on knowledge of wildlife species, identify birds and mammals from mounts and furs, identify bird calls, identify wildlife foods and various wildlife signs, and identify tracks. Finally they identify wildlife that would be found on a given habitat and then tell what could be done to manage this habitat to improve it for specific wildlife.

Other Twin Valley wildlife contestants were Aaron Teter, Matt Perini, Jessica Barwell, Scott Ferrell, Rebecca Gardner, Amanda Amoros, Jill DeGazelle, Kristin Leisey, David Lutz, Megan Binasiewicz, Alyssa Taylor, Ryan Smathers, Christy Moyer, Irene Thomas and John Shaffer.

In agricultural mechanics competition, Don Wolf placed 6th, Todd Terry 9th, and Lee Millisock 10th. Mechanics contestants also started with a written test and then performed various mechanics skills, including wiring and welding skills.

In pleasure horse judging, Lura Blosenski placed 3rd among Berks County contestants. Horse contestants identified items of tack, took a written test on know-

ledge of horses and horse management, and placed classes of horses. Other Twin Valley contestants were Desiree Reese, Erica Ullman, Chuck Beam, Melissa Miller, and Megan Charron.

Finally students competed in dairy cattle judging. Contestants had to take a written test and place classes of cattle as well as classes of dairy pedigrees. Placing best among the Twin Valley contestants was Kate Collman. Other Twin Valley contestants were Kristy Baker, Teran Moore, Rachael Powers, and Sandy Mast.

Contests conducted by the FFA were to measure skills developed in agriculture classes as well as to enrich some areas of our curriculum. All Twin Valley contestants are agriculture students of either Mr. Harold Dietrich or Ronald Frederick.

Twin Valley FFA Receives National Awards

The Twin Valley FFA was among 350 FFA chapters from across the United States which were honored by the national FFA at their annual convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The Twin Valley chapter received a bronze award in national chapter ranking and a silver award in community service recognition. Each of the more than 8,000 FFA chapters across the United States is eligible for recognition in these award areas.

National chapter awards are based upon the overall activities conducted by the chapter as well as the involvement of chapter members in these activities. Community service awards are based on the chapter's involvement in community service activities.

Twin Valley has been a leader in presenting educational programs to 3rd grade students in each of the district's elementary schools. At the end of the school year, all 3rd grade students are brought to the high school for a tour of the agriculture facilities and lessons at eight different teaching stations.

Members also are very active in a pet therapy program with the Tel-Hai Retirement community. Working with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, chapter members cut more than two acres of brush for habitat improvement and planted tree seedlings on several thousand feet of streambank to prevent erosion.

Members also collect Christmas trees for recycling after the holidays. These trees were used for brush piles for wildlife habitat and to prevent erosion in a gully.

To encourage more member participation, upperclassmen conducted an "adopt a freshman" project last fall. Members participated in state FFA activities such as the Made for Excellence Conference and the State Legislative Leadership Conference. Members also attended the county FFA Leadership Conference and the Penn State Collegiate FFA Leadership Conference. They conducted a wildlife and plant survey with the Browning Ferris Conestoga Landfill.

Numerous FFA members participated in county and southeastern Pennsylvania FFA contests and activities. Members showed their expertise in such diverse areas as record keeping, interview skills, forestry, wildlife, pleasure horse judging, and nursery landscape.

Overall, 95 percent of the in-school students in agriculture classes became involved in FFA activities. FFA activities are used to supplement classroom instruction as well as to enrich the curriculum at Twin Valley. Members enjoy career development activities as well as those which enrich their personal lives.

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION Kansas City, Missouri



KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Members of the Pennsylvania state FFA agricultural mechanics was one of 43 teams participating in the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event at the 68th National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

Members of the team, from left, are John Berry, Matt Commero, and Shawn Breneman. The team was accompanied by their adviser/coach, Stephen Smith of Lampeter, Pa.

The National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event is sponsored by Firestone Agricultural Tire Division in conjunction with the Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund, a charitable trust established by Bridgestone/Firestone Incorporated of Nashville, Tenn., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The event is held at Ford Osage Vocational-Technical School, Independence, Mo.

Maryland FFA Land Judging Contest

The Linganore FFA Chapter won the first place banner in the land judging contest held recently in Frederick County, Maryland.

The contest is sponsored by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts as a special project of the Maryland FFA Foundation, Inc.

The high scoring individual for the land judging contest was David O'Hara, member of the Linganore FFA. The Walkersville High School FFA Chapter took the second place banner in the contest.

According to Contest Superintendent, Carl E. Robinette, soil scientist with the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, 10 teams were registered with 44 members participating.

Contestants were asked to evaluate soils at three sites for the capability and their limiting factors. The members were then to recommend the best management practices for agricultural and nonagricultural land uses at each site.

Jim Brewer and Phil King of the Natural Resource Conservation Service supervised the contest.

The winning teams in the land judging contest from first through third were Linganore High School, Walkersville High School, and Frederick High School.

The top scoring individuals receiving gold medals were: 1. David O'Hara, Linganore FFA; 2. Kevin Saylor, Walkersville FFA. Receiving a silver medal was: 3. William Higgins, Linganore FFA.

For information, contact Ike Williams, State FFA executive secretary, (410) 767-0189.

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION Kansas City, Missouri



KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Members of the Grassland FFA Chapter attended the 68th National FFA Convention here recently where they received special recognition for their achievements in the National FFA Building Our American Communities (BOAC) Award Program.

The chapter was one of 207 National BOAC Award winners that received special recognition for their achievements in community development activities. Pictured is chapter member Jon Beaver, left, and FFA adviser, Robert B. Lauffer.

The award program is sponsored by RJR Nabisco Foundation, Inc. of Washington, D.C. is a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The BOAC award program recognizes FFA chapters on the local, state and national levels for a wide variety of community development activities including preserving community history, organizing local farmers markets, building feed testing facilities, and many other improvement projects. BOAC projects provide citizenship and leadership development opportunities to students by giving them a chance to work with community leaders and organizations.

The BOAC program has been endorsed by the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, the Farmers Home Administration, USDA, and the U.S. Department of Education.



Luzerne County Awards 1995

Outstanding 4-H'ers

Melissa Tomascik and Jill Harrison recently received the Luzerne County Outstanding 4-H'er of the Year Award given by Penn State Cooperative Extension of Luzerne County at the Annual 4-H Achievement Presentation held at the Courthouse Rotunda.

These outstanding 4-H'ers were recognized for their leadership ability; involvement in county, regional and state 4-H activities; and overall development accomplishments. The outstanding 4-H'er is the highest county 4-H award.

Penn State Cooperative Extension of Luzerne County also honored several other 4-H'ers and volunteers for their achievements and commitment to the 4-H program.

•I Dare You Award: Shannon Cooney and Amber Frace.

•WDLs Public Relation Award: 1st place—White Haven River Rats; 2nd place—Hobbie Community 4-H; and 3rd place—Tall in the Saddle.

•Secretary Book Award: senior—Kelly Jesse, junior—Amber Frace.

•Club Achievement Awards: Small Club—1st—Tall in the Saddle; 2nd—Winning Colors; and 3rd—The Winner's Circle. Medium Club—1st—The Hummingbirds; and Large Club—1st—Hobbie Community 4-H; and 2nd—White Haven River Rats.

•Teen Leader Award: Maurice Christino, Christina Demellier, Sara Donovan, Amy Fairchild, Melinda Frace, Jill Harrison, Jacqueline Heller, Heather Hoffman, Loni Innots, Matt Sechevich, and Heather Wildrick.