

FFA Members Meet With Legislators

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Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — About 150 members of the Pennsylvania FFA representing chapters throughout the state, along with their advisors and state activities coordinators met with their respective state legislators Tuesday during the organization's annual legislative day in Harrisburg.

It was part of the state FFA organization's ninth annual state legislative leadership conference, a three-day event that includes leadership workshops, seminars, tours, legislative simulation activities, the breakfast, a group photo in the Capitol Rotunda, and then meeting the representatives in their state Capitol offices.

The group met for breakfast at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, located close to the state Capitol. Each chapter sat at tables with their respective legislators and discussed topics while dining and listening to their officers give short speeches.

In addition, the recipients of the state's Keystone Star Farmer Award were announced during the breakfast.

Ordinarily, this award is made

during the annual FFA convention held during the state Farm Show in the Large Arena of the complex in Harrisburg.

However, because of the blizzard that hit south central Pennsylvania and an emergency declaration by Gov. Tom Ridge that shut down all but emergency traffic, the convention was cancelled.

Each year, the star award goes to one outstanding individual in one of four categories out of all members in the state, making it a prestigious honor.

This year, from Derry Area FFA, Justin Better, of Latrobe, was named the winner of the star in horticulture.

From West Perry FFA chapter, Michael Clark, of Loysville, won the star in production award.

From Twin Valley FFA chapter, Tara Plena, of Honey Brook, won the star in specialized agriculture.

Rose Marie Samogeden, also of Honey Brook and a member of the Twin Valley FFA chapter, was named the star in agricultural sales, service and mechanics.

Also during the conference breakfast, the winner of a \$1,000 Arthur Anderson Scholarship was presented to Thomas Karr by Ben DiCarlo, representing Arthur

Andersen & Company, a financial consulting business that provides services for business leaders.

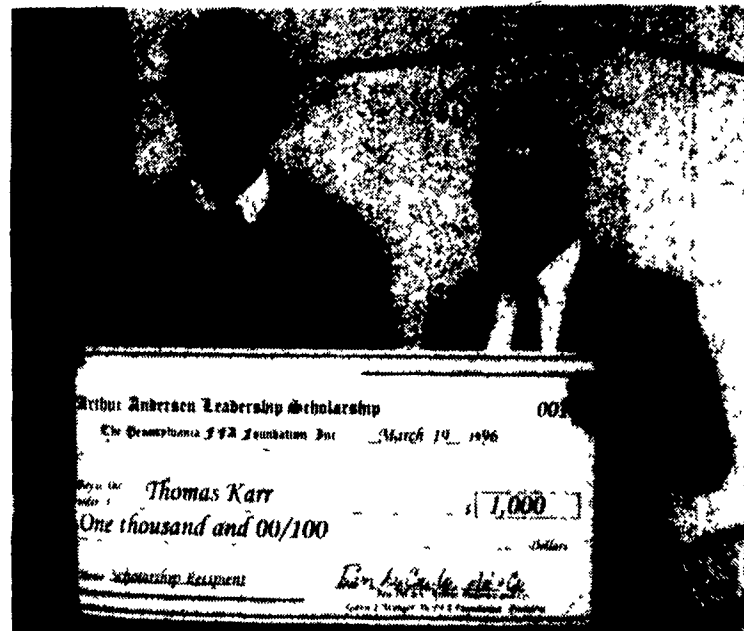
For 10 years, in an effort to encourage leadership in potential agricultural leaders, the company has sponsored the scholarship.

To be eligible, youth must be active FFA members; be a state resident; be or have been enrolled in a college agricultural science, horticultural science or related studies program; demonstrate exemplary leadership at the chapter level and beyond, be sponsored by a member of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation; and plan to continue an agricultural education at either Penn State University or Delaware Valley College.

The scholarship was developed because a lot of the company's clients are members of the Pa. Poultry Federation, and this was a way for the company to give back to the industry.

The FFA members first met Sunday at the Harrisburg Holiday Inn, where they held the majority of their conference.

An orientation program was given by state officers — President Darla Herr, Vice President Heather Benner, North Central Vice President Margi Erway,



FFA member Thomas Karr and Ben DiCarlo holds a mock check representing the fact that Karr received the \$1,000 Arthur Anderson Leadership Scholarship.

Eastern Vice President Carrie Herrick, South Central Vice President Mark Hecker, Treasurer Tonya Anthony, Secretary Jennifer Grimes, Reporter D. Joshua Troxell, Sentinel Lloyd Bier, and chaplain Shannon Horst.

After that, a series of leadership workshops were also presented by officers, on parliamentary procedure, legislative simulation, and some tips on meeting legislators.

Later, they had a celebrity dinner, where the members were to dress up like their favorite celebrity.

After Sunday dinner, they reviewed their agenda for the next day, reviewed committee bills, and

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