

# Outstanding Students

(Continued from Page A1)

school and community events, he said, was inspired by the morals and influence of his parents, Samuel and Regina Dodson of Lititz. His dad coaches baseball and his mom helps at many school functions. Ryan has two brothers, Thomas, 16, and Paul, 2.

Neil Fellenbaum doesn't live on a farm "and probably won't ever be able to own one," he said. So he wants to do the next best thing — become an ag teacher.

Neil works on a tobacco and produce farm and has lots of interest in growing produce.

"My ag teacher has had a lot of influence on me," Neil said of the Penn Manor FFA adviser. "I'd like to influence students about the value of agriculture, too."

Neil is vice president of the FFA and competed in poultry and meats judging for three years in a row at the FFA national competition held in Kansas City.

Neil received Penn State's Presidential scholarship for his high SAT score of 1280.

The son of C. Bradley and Debra Fellenbaum, Neil has a sister Michele, 16, and a brother Glen, 15.

Neil is a member of the National Honor Society and of the youth group at Creswell EC.

Keith Hoover will study ag engineering at Penn State.

"It's a wide open area with technology expanding, I think it's a good field to get into," the 17-year-old said.

Keith helps his parents, David and Judy, on their Washington Boro farm, where they have a farrow-to-finish hog operation, raise beef cattle, and crop farm 350

acres with tobacco, corn, soybeans, and wheat.

Keith has won numerous ribbons for showing market hogs and his crop entries at local fairs and the state farm show.

An FFA student, Keith has earned top state awards and the national awards in poultry and in meat judging. He is also vice president of the FFA and a member of the National Honor Society. Keith is a member of the Mellingers Mennonite Youth Group. He has a sister, Denise, 16, and a brother, Ryan, 12.

Keith also received \$1,000 scholarships from FFA and Penn State for his top grades.

Melonica Kauffman, the 18-year-old daughter of Dennis and Carol Kauffman, plans to study dairy science at Delaware Valley College.

"I grew up with cows all my life and I enjoy working with them," Melonica said. "I want to own my own farm someday — definitely with cows."

Melonica may return to the family's 100-acre farm along Willow Road in Lancaster. Her two older sisters, Melissa and Melanie, aren't interested in cows, Melonica said.

Although a Lancaster countian and a member of the 4-H dairy club and the junior Holstein Club, Melonica was a member of the Lebanon County 4-H Dairy Bowl, which placed third in state competition.

At Conestoga Valley High School, Melonica was a member of the National Honor Society. She is also active in her church youth group.

"I chose Delaware Valley because it has a good herd of cows

and it's a nice, small campus," Melonica said.

Heather Oberholtzer is best known as both Lancaster County and state alternate dairy princess.

"I love farming and agriculture as a way of life," she said.

She is the eighth generation to live on her family's Seven Gen Farm in Elizabethtown. She will say goodbye to milking 75 cows when she heads to Penn State's main campus in the fall.

After a summer job of assisting a veterinarian, Heather has decided the expense of eight years of study is not for her, but she will study dairy and animal science.

At Elizabethtown High School, Heather is an FFA student who has received many awards and held top offices. She recently received scholarships from both FFA and a women's service club.

At school, Heather is also a member of the National Honor Society, the Overcoming Drug With Education Club, and was a member of the marching band and girls' soccer team. She was selected as the November student of the month and was named Teen of the Week for the Lancaster Intell newspaper.

Heather's parents are Clair and Laverne. Heather has an older sister, Jesslyn, and three younger brothers, Brian, Brent, and Delmar.

Jessica Weaver is heading off to Penn State to study ag education.

"Agriculture is really important in society and people should know it," she said.

Although she doesn't live on a farm, Jessica said that because she lives in a rural area and her parents are both from the farm, she learned to respect the agricultural community.

At Garden Spot High School, Jessica is FFA president of her chapter and treasurer of the county FFA. She was a member of the ten-

nis team for four years and a National Honor Society member.

She was influenced to attend Penn State after spending five weeks there as part of the the Governor's School for ag sciences held during the summer.

The daughter of John and Martha Weaver of Denver, Jessica has a sister Christina, 20, and a brother, Andy, 16. Jessica is active in the Bowmansville Mennonite Youth Group.

Andrew Young is co-valedictorian of his class at Solanco High School, president of the National Honor Society, director of the peer helper program, and vice president of his FFA chapter and the county.

In FFA competitions, Andrew won top awards at the county and state levels and was named one of the top winners in business management. In extemporaneous speaking, Andrew talked his way to the top in county and regional competition and went on to place fourth in the state.

He has also won a National Merit Scholarship and was named National Merit Student of the Month, Rotary Club Student of the Month, and outstanding conferee at the Rotary Leadership Conference.

Andrew said that his confident

leadership evolved from experience.

"I was the kid in grade school that everyone picked on," he said. The unpleasant experience taught Andrew not to rely upon what others thought of him but to develop firm beliefs.

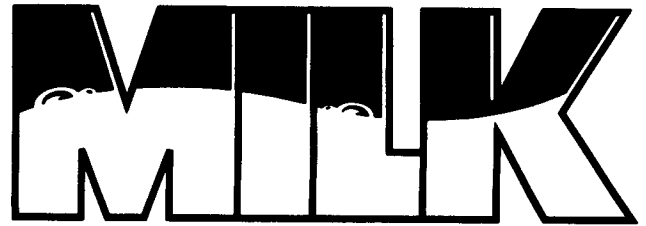
"In high school things turned around for me. I think other kids grew to respect me because I am confident in what I believe," Andrew said.

"I have a great family who influenced me by their consistent living," the 18-year-old son of Matthew and Linda Young said.

Andrew grew up on Red Knob Farm in Peach Bottom. The 350-375 dairy herd is farmed in partnership with Andrew's father, uncle, and grandfather. Andrew plans to study ag economics at the University of Delaware to use on the family farm.

After college graduation, he also foresees himself attending a seminary. He already is receiving experience in the ministry because he is assistant to the youth pastor at Faith Reformed Church.

The scholarship monies are derived from the trust fund set up by the late Elmer L. Esbenshade. The number of scholarships given varies from year to year depending on the interest earned from the trust.



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