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Lancaster Farming

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Vo-Ag Groups Focus On Unity At Summer Meeting

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Mifflin Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association (PVATA) met at Penn State this past week for their Agri-science/Technical In-Service for agricultural educators.

On the surface, the group presented awards at its banquet and listened to Jay Jackman, the new executive director of the national organization. Behind the scenes though, the focus was unity.

"The PVATA is actively pursuing a unified effort among several agricultural organizations who have the same goal — agricultural education," says Steve Kline, outgoing president of PVATA. "Some of the things we do at PVATA and in FFA tend to overlap. FFA, the FFA Foundation, and PVATA are all going through changes. With PVATA taking the lead, we've started to work through a planning process centered on unified ag education. I'm excited about forming an ag ed family of these organizations."

Focusing on the slogan "Communication, Cooperation, and Collaboration," Kline said their efforts are attracting others.

"In planning next years PVATA In-Service session, we tentatively have it set for the same week in July that teachers are here for Ag in the Classroom. Pennsylvania Young Farmers asked if they could meet then too. Although all the organizations have their own identity, it all leads to the same goal."

Kline said the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Penn State and PVATA have always worked together on an informal basis and are very receptive to the idea of unity.

At the awards banquet on July 19, Jay Jackman, executive director of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association, spoke to the crowd about how agricultural education teachers have the opportunity to "open doors they've (students) never had the courage to open before."

Jackman's leadership of the national organization began just four months ago. He travels throughout

the United States meeting teachers and is convinced that ag ed teachers do make a difference. He reminded them of the toll-free number for the national office.

Jackman also introduced Entrepreneurial Education Program. The NVATA is promoting the year old grant-funded program. Jackman said local FFA clubs can identify a winner and that application will be sent straight to the national competition. A recent Gallup Poll discovered that seven out of 10 high school students want to start their own business. In addition, young people have little confidence in corporate America.

Awards

Four teachers earned engraved watches for reaching the 25-year mark in their teaching career. Dr. Dennis Scanlon, who serves on the agricultural and extension education staff at Penn State, Ernest Orr of Ephrata, Wayne Soltenberger of Huntingdon, and Peter Hickman of Walter Biddle Saul High School of Agricultural

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Earl Brown, left, of Coudersport High School and Tom Willey of Williamsburg High School receive the Outstanding Agricultural Educator awards at the Pennsylvania Vocational Agricultural Teacher Association's summer convention.

Fore FFA Event Garners Nearly \$20,000 For Foundation

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

DENVER (Lancaster Co.) — The Fore FFA Golf Tournament and Dinner/Auction raised nearly \$20,000 this year, with more than \$9,000 raised during the auction alone.

In it's fourth year, the event again surpassed funds raised the previous year, even though weather forecasts warning of flash flooding apparently prevented all from attending.

More than 220 people attended the steak dinner/auction event, which followed a day of golfing, with nine teams of FFA members and advisors and guests playing morning rounds and regular registrants competing in an afternoon shotgun scramble.

Despite day-long blustering winds and overcast skies that didn't break, the top golf score was a 59, considered an excellent fair weather score.

Out of the 36 teams that competed in the tournament, the top team consisted of Jamie Fickes and Brad Fickes of Newville Building Supply, and Mike Dunsmore and Doug Lehman.

The second place team con-

sisted of players Mark Stearn, Greg Winger, Greg Kite, and Ben Johnson of Commonwealth Bank.

There was a three-way tie for third place, between teams consisting of Ken Miller, Tom Sasser, Mark Ritko, and Buddy Brenner; Michael Domiano of Furrman's Foods, Ken Fisher with Sauder's Penn-Dutch Eggs, and Roy Reeves and Daryl Bachman with R.U.S. Image in Action; and Oxford High School Vo-Ag teacher Scott Gold, Dave Houston, Steve Moran with

Herr Foods, and John Coldiron.

The top three teams received plaques commemorating the achievement. The top team's plaque included a collectible miniature tractor-trailer with the Pennsylvania FFA logo, while the second and third place plaques were mounted with collectible toy tractors and commemorative brass plates.

More than 150 items were donated by the FFA Foundation, a number of FFA chapters, support-

ing businesses, and individuals for sale at auction.

Among the various valuable items donated were such things as a Ned Smith print of a pair of otters that sold for \$900.

In a different new twist this year, a registered Holstein calf was placed on the auction block and sold for \$900 to Bill Campbell, CEO of primary event sponsor Hoss's Steak and Sea House. The calf that was shown was a visual aid, as it were, was returned to its

owner, Cedar Crest FFA chapter secretary Amanda Bomgardner.

The money raised through the token sale of the calf, along with \$500 already raised by the Cedar Crest Young Farmers and the FFA, is to be used to purchase a registered Holstein calf that is to be donated to a deserving FFA member for use as a project animal.

The remainder of the funds are to be divided equally between the FFA Foundation and the CCYF.

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This Week
Special advertising messages from exhibitors at the Lebanon Fair can be found this week on Pages A32 to A35. You will also find an events schedule and photos from last year too. The Lebanon Fair will be held July 27 to Aug. 3 at the fair grounds.



The first combined 4-H and FFA dairy show in Pennsylvania was held at the Lebanon Fairgrounds this week as champions were named at the 41st Southeastern District Dairy Show. Background information and the show results are reported on page A28. In this photo the Holstein champions are shown. From the left, Lebanon County Dairy Princess Alisha Myers,

show judge Matthew Wanner, LII' Miss Dairy Princess Melissa Bashore, Jesse Bomgardner with his grand champion, Kevin Bomgardner with the reserve grand champion, Lynette Hefner with the junior champion and Rachel Krall with the reserve junior champion.