

Maryland Holds State FFA Convention

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — The 68th Annual Maryland State FFA Convention was held on June 18-19, here at the Ramada Inn.

More than 350 FFA members and guests participated in convention activities, including delegate sessions, committee meetings, leadership contests, and chapter competitions.

The convention activities were directed by the 1995-1996 State FFA Officer Team.

Special activities of the convention include presentations by the National FFA Vice-President Andy McCall and the retiring addresses of the state officers. Other activities included the Record Book Awards Program sponsored by Maryland Farm Bureau and the American Royal Ambassador Scholarship Program sponsored by the Farm Credit Banks.

Recognition of individual FFA members included state agriculture degree. State proficiency award winners included Dana Bollinger of Catocin (beef production) Melissa Willard of Catocin (div. livestock production), Mark Valentine of Catocin (dairy production), Zachary Parker of Frederick CTC (emerging ag technology), and Mark Michael Clear Spring (vegetable production) and American FFA Degree Candidate Richard O'Hara of Linganore High.

Honorary Agriculturist Degree recipients included Robert Valentine, Sue Lowery, John Peckyno, and State President Laah Broadwater.

Two special VIP awards were presented to recognize outstanding contributions to the Maryland FFA Association. The Blue and Gold Award was given during the banquet session to James Ferrant for his services to Linganore High School and the State of Maryland for the past 18 years. The Distinguished Service Award was also presented during the banquet session to Otis Horticultural Association, Inc. The award was accepted by Gregory Ott.

The Maryland FFA Foundation, Inc. gave special recognition to the sponsors of FFA Activities during the third convention session. The Institute of Applied Agriculture was selected to receive the Outstanding Sponsor Award. During the session, 28

contest sponsors and 17 convention sponsors were recognized.

Dr. Boyd Robinson of the Maryland FFA Foundation, Inc. noted that "the generosity of Maryland's agricultural industry and agricultural organizations in providing financial support for the sponsorship of the various FFA contests is genuinely appreciated by FFA members across the state."

The American Royal Ambassador Contest has been one of the highlights of the annual State FFA Convention in the past. This year that contest included both male and female contestants who were interviewed on Tuesday morning and winners were announced during the American Royal Ambassador Dance that evening.

This year's American Royal Ambassador candidates who will represent Maryland at Kansas City in the American Royal Ambassador Contest are Tracey Clagett of the South Carroll FFA Chapter and David O'Hara of the Linganore FFA Chapter. As state winners they will each receive a \$500 scholarship from the Farm Credit Bank.

Candidates for the 1996-1997 state FFA officers were interviewed on Saturday, June 1, and

installed during the awards banquet by the outgoing team. Members of the 1996-97 state FFA officer team are state president,

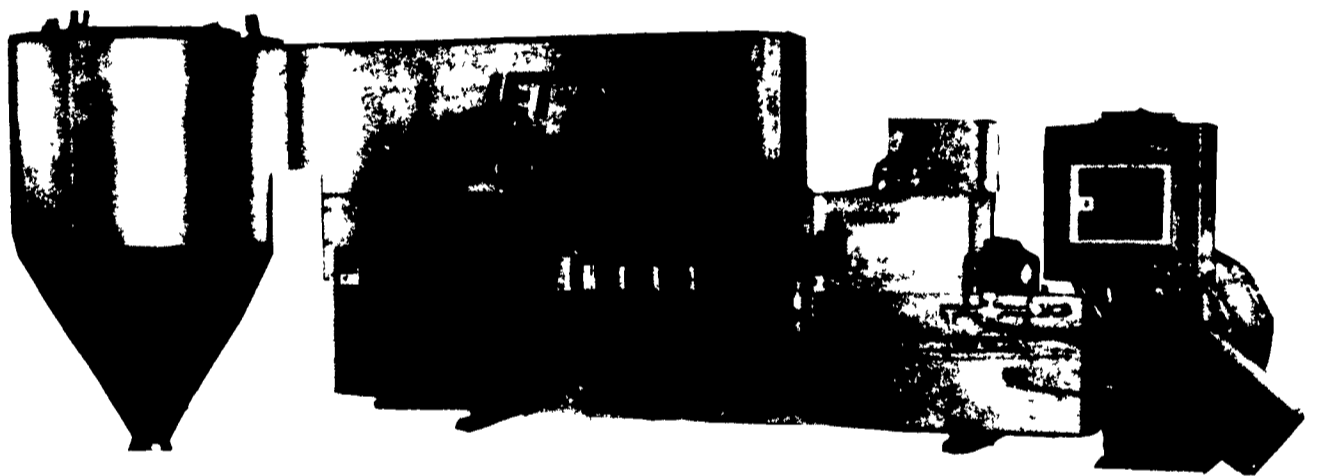
Jonathan D. Farmer; vice president, Sara Haas; state treasurer, Amy Mathews; state secretary, Missy Willard; state reporter,

Tatiana Smith; state sentinel, Denny Ogg; state parliamentarian, Abby Fawley; and state junior advisor, Laura Worthington.



Members of the Maryland State FFA officer team are, front, from left, Sara Haas, vice president; Jonathan D. Farmer, president; and Missy Willard, secretary. Back, from left, Denny Ogg, sentinel; Amy Mathews, treasurer; Abby Fawley, parliamentarian; Tatiana Smith, reporter; and Laura Worthington, junior advisor.

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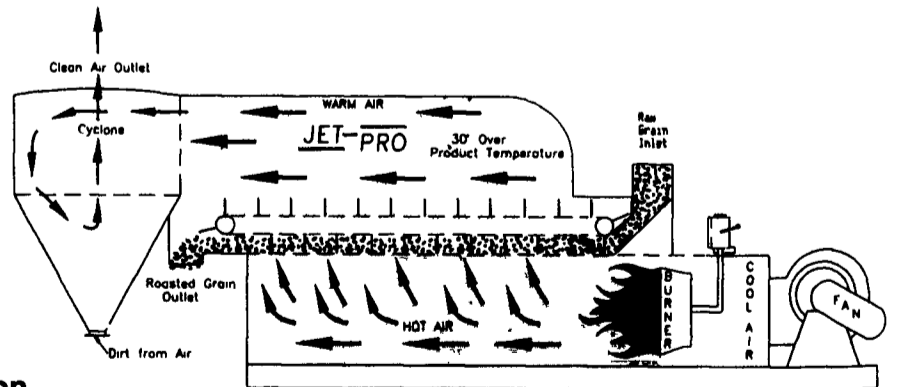


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