



**Merkle To Perform With National FFA Band**  
When the lights are dimmed and a hush descends upon an audience of more than 35,000 at the world's largest annual youth convention this November, a local FFA member will share the spotlight in a musical performance that will inspire the crowd and provide memories to last a lifetime.

Jessica Merkle of Warrior's Mark has been selected to play clarinet in the 1996 National FFA Band. The more than 100-member marching and concert band will perform at various events throughout the organization's 69th National FFA Convention, Nov. 14-16 in Kansas City, Mo.

Merkle is a member of the State College Little Lions FFA chapter.

She is the daughter of Charles and Delores Merkle.

FFA band members are nominated by their state associations and selected from more than 300 applications. The young musicians will arrive in Kansas City three days before the convention to rehearse.

The National FFA Band is directed by Gene Englerth, director of the Michigan State FFA Band and former assistant director of the National FFA Band.

There are approximately 150 total band members from all around the U.S.

For more information, contact Aimee Jo Hauck, State FFA reporter and past national band member, (717) 458-0337.

**Local Youth Named National Finalist For FFA Award**

Jeremy Dorman of Mifflinburg and a member of the Mifflinburg FFA chapter has been named a national finalist in competition for the National FFA Fruit and/or Vegetable Production Proficiency Award.

Dorman is now eligible to compete for national honors at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 14-16.

Forman became eligible for the national honor after winning the \$100 state level award. Proficiency awards recognize outstanding individual programs in which students start a business, work for an existing enterprise or otherwise gain hands-on career experience in agriculture. Fruit and/or vegetable production is one of 40 proficiency categories FFA uses for local, state and national evaluation and award programs. Dorman will receive a plaque and a check for \$250.

Dorman is the son of Richard and Esther Dorman.

**WEST SNYDER FFA PARTICIPATES IN FALL CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

The SUN Area FFA Dairy and Livestock Judging FFA Career Development Events were held on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at the Beaver Community Fair.

West Snyder FFA teams won first place in both events. On an individual basis in the dairy judging event, Steve Opdyke and Jennifer McWilliams earned blue ribbons, placing first and second respectively.

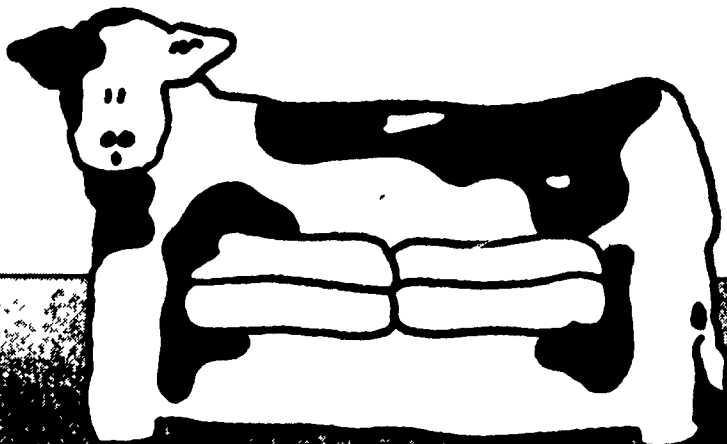
Jen Balantincz and Ben Boonie also won blue ribbons while Eric Balantincz received a red ribbon. Sandra Opdyke received a white ribbon. Team A, consisting of Steve Opdyke, Jennifer McWilliams, and Eric Balantincz, was the first place team in the SUN Area.

The livestock judging team judged market steers, hogs, market lambs, and a class of breeding sheep. Oral reasons were given to

the official. In the livestock judging, Luke Zerby and Jodi Moist won blue ribbons and placed first and second respectively. Jess Catherman and Michele Fetterolf also received blue ribbons. Jessica Walter won a red ribbon and Nathan Brower won a white ribbon. The livestock judging team A consisting of Luke Zerby, Jodi Moist, and Michele Fetterolf placed first in the SUN Area.

On Tuesday, Oct. 18, the West Snyder FFA Chapter traveled to Middleburg to compete in more Sun Area FFA Career Development Events. These events included tractor driving, land judging, and forestry. In the tractor driving event, the students backed a 4-wheel wagon into an area that was four inches wider than the wagon. They also took a written test and demonstrated tractor maintenance proficiency. Steve Opdyke placed second with a blue ribbon and Doug Boop earned a red ribbon in this event.

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