

Farm Show Scholarship Foundation Announces Recipients

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co) - The Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation on Thursday announced the selection of its fifth annual scholarship winners at the 1998 Farm Show junior livestock sale of champions

The scholarship committee awarded scholarships worth \$2,000 each to 13 Pennsylvania youth who are pursuing a degree at a post-secondary institution

Agricultural Secretary Samuel E Hayes Jr assisted in the presentation of awards.

Criteria for selection includes scholarship; leadership in school, community, and 4-H or FFA, participation in the Farm Show, and financial need.

Money for scholarships comes from a fund established following the 1993 Farm Show sale of champion.

A non-profit foundation was established to administer contributions and distribute scholarship money At the conclusion of this year, the fund will have provided \$83,000 to students.

The Farm Show Scholarship Foundation has established an Ambassador's Club, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, intended to increase scholarship funds for more rural youth.

The following are this year's recipients of the Farm Show Scholarships

Wendy E. Atkins

Wendy E Atkins, 19, is the daughter of William and Judith Atkins, Lebanon, Lebanon County She graduated from Cedar Crest High School in 1997 and currently attends Harcum College studying to be a veterinary technician

She actively participates in the aerobics club and is a member of the Harcum College volleyball team During her high school career, she was involved in concert band, the soccer and volleyball teams and played an active role in her church

She was an active member of FFA and part of the state winning 4-H livestock judging team from Lebanon County She was president of the swine club and vice president of the beef club She has competed nine years at the Farm Show

Atkins said, "I am very fortunate to have been able to take advantage of all the opportunities that were presented to me through 4-H and FFA. I believe that my 4-H and FFA experiences have made me what I am today"

Stephanie M. Biggerstaff

Stephanie M Biggerstaff, 18, is the daughter of David and Cecilia Biggerstaff, Belle Vernon, Fayette County. A 1997 graduate of Belle Vernon High School, she currently attend the Pennsylvania State University, Fayette Campus majoring in business administration with an agricultural business minor. She plans to establish a career in hospital administration or as a farm manager.

She showed market swine for the past four years at the Farm Show, and showed in the open beef breeding and junior beef breeding classes for the past three years. As a member of 4-H since 1991, she has served as president and treasurer and was involved in the market swine and the lamb club.

In her community she played a key role as a volunteer at her



Thirteen youth each receive \$2,000 Pennsylvania Farm Show scholarships, and stand with state Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr., center. The scholarship funds are generated through the sale of livestock champions, dona-

tions from supporting businesses and individuals through the Scholarship Fund's Ambassadors Club, and through other fund-raising activities.

local Red Cross blood drive, Salvation Army, and Toys for Tots.

"I have found out that you only get what you work for, and that in life you need to work very hard to accomplish your goals," Biggerstaff said.

Keith D. Carlisle

Keith D Carlisle, 19, son of David and Barbara Carlisle, Avella, Washington County, is a 1997 graduate of Avella High School and is attending Waynesburg College majoring in elementary education.

While in high school, he was a teacher's aide and assisted in tutorial sessions for elementary school students He also was a standout on the football field receiving all-star team honors. He now is a member of the Waynesburg football team.

Having shown Simmental cattle in 4-H and at the Farm Show for eight years, he won reserve grand champion female during the open show at the Farm Show in 1996.

During his eight years in 4-H, he has participated on the judging team and served as president, vice-president and news reporter of his local club.

He said he is looking forward to a future as an elementary school teacher "I have a very soft spot in my heart for young children. I want to share what I have learned through 4-H with my students," he said.

Michelle Cornman

Michelle Cornman, 18, is the daughter of Melvin and Betty Cornman, Carlisle, Cumberland County. She is a 1997 graduate of Big Spring High School and currently attends the Pennsylvania State University, Mont Alto Campus, majoring in Dairy and Animal Science.

Her future plans are to establish a career in the animal production industry, concentrating on sales and marketing.

She plans to do graduate studies in order to pursue a career as an agricultural extension agent.

She is a veteran to the Farm Show competitions having shown market lambs for seven years and market swine for eight years. During the time she was in the Cumberland

County 4-H and Big Spring FFA, she served as the president, vice-president, and secretary. She is a state FFA Star Farmer, as well as a recipient of the State Star in Diversified Livestock Production and Swine Production.

Adrienne D. Elkin

Adrienne D Elkin, 20, daughter of Samuel and Paula Elkin, Marion Center Area High School. She is currently majoring in chemical engineering at the Pennsylvania State University.

At Penn State, she is actively involved in the Biochemical Society, Women in Science and Engineering and the Sailing Club.

She has shown market swine at the Farm Show for six years. In the Northern Livestock 4-H Club, Elkin served as president, vice-president, news reporter and secretary.

She said she hopes to work for a chemical seed, pesticide, or feed company in the research and development of new crop technologies

"With the background I acquired from growing up immersed in agriculture, the education I am obtaining at Penn State and the enthusiasm I have towards the subject, I know I can be a large asset to the industry," Elkin said

Trisha C. Gallagher

Trisha C Gallagher, 18, is the daughter of William and Janet Gallagher, Uniontown, Fayette County. She is a 1997 graduate of Laurel Highland Senior High School and is currently studying nursing at the Pennsylvania State University, Fayette Campus.

For nine years she has participated at the Farm Show in the areas of clothing and textiles and food and nutrition. She also has exhibited market swine for four years at the Farm Show. Preparing for her career in nursing, she spends much of her time as a "candy stripper."

A member of the Fayette County Swine Club, she was president and news reporter. She also served on the livestock judging team and attended the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences.

She said she would like to achieve a master's degree as a nurse practitioner or a pediatric nurse. She said her 4-H experience will help her succeed in her career choice.

Samantha L. Gressley

Samantha L. Gressley, 18, daughter of Richard and Lucille Gressley, Fogelsville, Lehigh County, is a 1997 graduate of Northwestern Lehigh High School. She is currently an agricultural business management major at the Pennsylvania State University, Lehigh Valley Campus.

She showed market lambs at the Farm Show for two years and was active in the Lehigh County 4-H sheep and beef clubs serving as the president of the sheep club for five years. She was the Lehigh County Livestock Roundup champion fitter and showman in 1996 and 1997

"I believe that all of these activities have helped me grow into an informed individual and mature young adult, ready to face the challenges of colleges, life in the "real world", and my future," Gressley said. She said she is seeking a career in farm management.

Nicole L. Knepp

Nicole L Knepp, 19, is the daughter of Theodore and Dawn Knepp, Mohnton, Berks County. She is a 1997 graduate of Governor Mifflin High School and is currently attending the Pennsylvania State University, Berks Campus, as an agricultural business major.

For the past seven years, she has shown market lambs at the Farm Show and participated in the junior shepherd's contest. As an active member of the 4-H sheep club, she served as the president for two years and the treasurer for three years. She was a champion showman and fitter for sheep. She also was active in the beef, swine and horse 4-H clubs, and was a member of the livestock and meats judging team.

"The benefits of exhibiting my 4-H livestock projects are many fold, I learned to be a good sport, and the value of hard work and determination," she said.

"I learned winning is not what matters most, but being able to look back on past projects and seeing how as an individual you have grown into a more mature and knowledgeable person is what really counts," Knepp said. Her plans include using her degree in agricultural business to develop a career in agricultural banking.

Heather A. Lehman

Heather A Lehman, 21, daughter of Carl and Mable Lehman, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County is a 1995 graduate of Cumberland Valley High School. She is currently a dairy and animal science major at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park Campus.

She was actively involved in FFA since 1991 holding the office of chapter president and secretary, area president and state treasurer She has shown market swine at the Farm Show for three years. She is a member of the Penn State Dairy Science Club, Collegiate 4-H, and attended the National FFA convention.

She said she plans to pursue a career as an animal nutritionist.

Jessica M. Lori

Jessica M. Lori, 18, is the daughter of John and Debbie Lori, Scottsdale, Westmoreland County. She is a 1995 graduate of Southmoreland High School She is currently enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in administration of justice.

She played a key role in her local beef 4-H club by serving as secretary for four years She also is a member of the Pennsylvania Limousin Association.

She has been showing livestock breeding animals since 1989 and participated at the Farm Show for two years where she showed a steer and market lambs. She also showed dairy cattle.

In the field of administration of justice, she plans to focus her career in correction and prevention.

Christine M. Michalik

Christine M. Michalik, 18, daughter of Richard and Cynthia Michalik, Sellersville,

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