

FFA

BUILDING THE FUTURE



William F. Kirk, far left, senior vice president of the DuPont Agricultural Enterprise and FFA alumni, and Jim Borel, far right, vice president and general manager, DuPont Crop Protection Products, show their commitment to the National FFA Organization with a check for \$250,000. Receiving the check are, center, from left, 1998 FFA officers Mark Wilburn, central region vice president, and Hillary Smith, president.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - DuPont Agricultural Enterprise recently awarded a gift of \$250,000 toward the purchase of land and construction of the new National FFA Center in Indianapolis, Ind.

The National FFA Foundation has now raised \$4.5 million, including \$100,000 plus gifts from American Cyanamid Company - Agricultural Products Division, Case Corporation, DuPont Agricultural Enterprise, Dow AgroSciences, Eli Lilly and Company Foundation on behalf of Elanco Animal Health, Farmland Industries, IMC Global, John Deere, The Lilly Endowment, Novartis, Pioneer Hi-Bred International and Purina Mills.

"DuPont recognizes young people are the key to continued growth and effectiveness of American agriculture," said William F. Kirk, senior vice president, DuPont Agricultural Enterprise. "As a business, we are forced to look 5 to 10 years into the future to prepare business systems and people competencies to meet the needs of the marketplace. American agriculture also needs to be prepared with the right people in place with the knowledge and skills to meet the growing agricultural demands. Programs like FFA's capital campaign provide avenues for young people to become farmers, scientists, community leaders and employees to provide leadership in the industry."

James C. Borel, vice president and general manager, crop protection, added, "I appreciate the value of programs like the capitol campaign deliver to young people and I have seen first hand how their leadership directly benefits the productivity of American agriculture and American business. It is the responsibility of all of us in the industry to help provide a foundation for our leaders to grow from."

Charles Fischer, vice president of Dow AgroSciences in North America and 1998 Sponsors' Board chairman, explained, "Every dollar invested in the Capital Campaign does make a difference. Be assured

that your gift as an individual chapter, company or foundation does help young people succeed. You will make a difference. You will change lives."

The total goal for the campaign, which takes its theme, "I Believe in the Future," from the FFA Creed, is \$8 million. The funds will be used to provide for the land, building, move, technology and other elements needed to make the center a reality. The National FFA Foundation, Inc.'s, goal is \$5 million from corporate, foundation and individual sponsors and FFA's goal is \$3 million including the sale of the FFA's land in Virginia.

Individuals or companies interested in learning more about the "I Believe in the Future" campaign should contact the National FFA Foundation either by phone: (608) 829-3105 or fax: (608) 829-3195.

Kennard-Dale FFA Wins At Regionals

On Tuesday, April 7, a group of nine FFA members from the Kennard-Dale chapter readied themselves for a competition at the Regional FFA Parliamentary Procedure and Public Speaking Contest held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

The team would endure approximately 20 minutes of parliamentary procedure with FFA members from other competing teams trying to catch them in a mistake. The one speaker would receive a subject, prepare a five to seven minute speech in a half hour time frame, and present it to a judge with as many as eight other FFA members from the regions.

The Parliamentary Procedure Team was made up of nine students ranging from the ages of 14 to 17. Christina Cypriotis, Travis Moore, Kristina McElwain, Heather McElwain, Lacie Watkins, Brandon Webb, Joe Marslett, Susan Richardson, and alternate Julia Hayes

, prepared for this contest by practicing and winning the York County and Adams, Franklin, and York Area FFA competitions. Kristina McElwain, the



Elizabethtown FFA officer team. From left, Ali Boutorabi, Sean Harnish, Denise Bollinger, John Hess, Jessie Espenshade, Kelly Nichols, Nicole Eisenhower, Jason Wagner, Jenny Ruhl, and Amy Brandt.

Elizabethtown FFA

On Wednesday, April 15, the Elizabethtown FFA had its 39th annual FFA Awards Banquet.

During this evening, members of the FFA were recognized for their outstanding achievements throughout the past year. Some freshmen earned their Greenhand degree, which is the first degree an FFA member can earn.

Two recipients earned the prestigious Star Greenhand degree for their extra efforts and dedication. Other members earned their Chapter degrees, the second degree a member strives for. One senior earned the Star Chapter Farmer and another earned the Star Chapter Agribusinessman for their outstanding efforts.

Two seniors earned their Keystone degrees, which is the highest degree at the state level. All degree recipients possessed the necessary qualifications for their specific degrees such as leadership abilities and progression of an agricultural career.

Awards were presented to the three highest salesman of this year's Holiday Sales. The Holiday Sale is the chapter's main fundraiser and items such as candles, fruit, and bologna are sold. Zach Germack has been the top salesman for the past three years.

Many members were honored for their participation on the state and national judging teams. Members of the Poultry Judging team competed at Springfield, Mass., last fall, winning first place overall. Members of the Dairy Food Team competed at Kansas City, Mo., earning gold honors. Also, proficiency awards were given to members who displayed talents in certain areas or who devoted a lot of time to one aspect of agriculture, such as wildlife, diversified animal production, and agricultural salesmanship.

The new assistant principal, Dr. Donald Donley, presented the Dekalb Achievement Award

extemporaneous speaker, also competed in these contests to receive an invitation to the regional contest.

Kristina McElwain won first place in the Extemporaneous speaking contest. The Kennard-Dale team placed first after vying with four other teams for the honor. All of these students will be attending the Pennsylvania State FFA Convention in June to compete for an opportunity to attend the National FFA competition held in Kansas City, Mo.

to a senior who plans on attending college for agriculture and who has had a good scholastic background.

Every year the Elizabethtown FFA presents the Blue and Gold Award to an individual or local organization which has helped the chapter in various ways. This year Masonic Homes was presented this award for their continued support since the early 1980s. One way they helped students was by offering non-farm agriculture students the opportunity to raise and show a dairy cow at the

Elizabethtown Fair.

More recently, Masonic Homes has helped the chapter with the Regional Career Development Livestock Judging Competition which is held at the Elizabethtown Fairgrounds. The Homes provided the steers, lambs, and hogs, helped set up pens, and ran the contest for 125 eastern region FFA members. Frank Stoltzfus was present at the banquet to accept the award on behalf of Masonic Homes.

The program closed with retiring officer awards and senior speeches.



In the photo at Heidelberg Castle, Heidelberg, Germany are Pennsylvania State FFA officers, from left, Dale Thomas, Nicki Over, Kelly Horton (tour leader), Cathy Fyock, and Phil Eby.

Local Youth Experiences International Agriculture

Philip Eby of Gap recently spent two weeks in Germany learning about agriculture on an international level. Eby was one of 61 participants from across the nation to participate in the 1998 International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) coordinated by the National FFA Organization.

The officers attended various agricultural events and tours in Germany. Some of the agricultural experiences that the students had were visiting an agricultural cooperative and a variety of farms and agribusinesses and many chances to try new food. After sightseeing in the area, the seminar continued on to nearby Grossenhain, where many students enjoyed the highlight of their program: a host family stay.

Each FFA member gained knowledge and understanding of German life and agriculture, and made lifelong friends while staying with their host families. Participants had the opportunity to see how German farm families live and work, and explored the similarities and differences to American agriculture. They visited a "Collective Farm" in the former East Germany as well as other research and university-related agricultural sites. A visit to nearby Buchenwald, a concentration camp dur-

ing World War II, was also a memorable part of the tour.

The main focus of the ILSSO Seminar is the annual Greenweek Expo in Berlin, Germany. This world-class exposition draws more than 100,000 visitors per day, and features machinery, livestock, and agricultural products from around the world. Participants met and talked with young farmers from the European Community, met with the United States ambassador to Germany, and saw the sights of Berlin.

The International Leadership Seminar for State Officers is offered each year for current or past state FFA officers who have a strong background in leadership and agriculture, as well as an interest in expanding their knowledge of other cultures throughout the world. The 1999 ILSSO is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 5-19, 1999. If you are interested in participating in this seminar or any other agricultural world experience programs, please contact FFA International Programs at (703) 360-3600 or visit our homepage at <http://www.ffa.org> and then click on International Programs. Free international participant information packets or international hosting information packets are available on all international programs by calling toll-free (888) 392-7853.