

258 Keystone Degree Recipients Mark FFA's 72nd Year With 'Signature Of Success'

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Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — As an agricultural educational institution, the FFA is 72 years old. The recent 1999 convention in Louisville, Ky., made another impact on the lives of students with the theme, "Signature of Success."

To make their mark, what amounts to 258 — a record in recent history — of Pennsylvania FFA members will receive the cherished Keystone Degree at the Pennsylvania Mid-Winter Convention Monday, Jan. 10. The event is scheduled in the Large Arena of the Farm Show Complex from 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

At the state FFA gala event, hundreds of family, friends, and agri-industry supporters will be on hand to congratulate the winners of the Keystone honor, the state's highest degree.

The 1999 national convention theme symbolizes the "organization's mission, encouraging students to make an impact on the future of their communities, the agricultural industry, the nation, and the world by developing themselves as successful leaders through the FFA experience," according to the National FFA.

At the convention, members developed themselves as premier leaders and young professionals. The FFA National Agricultural Career Show in Louisville, Ky., brought 349 exhibitors to allow FFA members to learn about a vast array of agricultural careers, programs, and products. While in Louisville, FFA members participated in many career development events, leadership workshops, award ceremonies, and banquets. The America FFA Degree, the highest level nationally for an FFA member, went to 2,324 members.

FFA members are recognized by their traditional blue and gold jackets with their names scrolled proudly on the front. Many people associate membership in state FFA with raising animals or growing crops — but membership exposes students to a variety of careers in agribusiness.

FFA members prepare for wide-ranging careers in marketing, communications, genetic engineering, law, and other industries.

National FFA Week is scheduled Feb. 19-26. The FFA Theme Guide offers pointers for members to explain FFA and promote agriculture education.

The state FFA honors less than 10 percent of its members with the Keystone Degree. There are certain requirements each FFA member must meet to receive it. Only seniors and graduates are eligible. They must have shown leadership ability, must have earned from their own efforts in farming or from supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs, and deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested at least \$1,000 or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

Out of the 258 recipients of this year's Keystone Degree, four state stars out of the regional stars will be chosen in their respective area. Selection of state stars is based upon their SAE program. Programs must show comprehensive planning, continuation, growth, and increase in scope with records to prove such accomplishments.

The four stars include production agriculture; ag sales, service, and mechanics; horticulture; and specialized agriculture, including forestry, natural resources, and nontraditional agriculture.

The gala event is free and open to the public.

At *Lancaster Farming*, home to stories and news coverage from various state FFA chapters, we know how hard the achievements are won by members. Their signatures of success have been felt by their families and their community. We salute their efforts and wish them well. Perhaps, by their efforts, they will write their own place in the history of the America's agri-industries.

Derrick L. Adair



"The thing I enjoyed most about FFA was meeting new people, attending all the conferences, and, most of all, just having fun," said Derrick L. Adair.

Derrick, 17, four-year West Perry FFA member, plans to attend Penn State, run for state office, get married to a farm girl, and have "four or five kids," he wrote.

Derrick is the son of Daniel and Kelly Adair, Loysville. He has served as chapter secretary and is area president. Derrick has completed various SAE projects, including dairy calf, dairy heifer, dairy herd, and on-farm work experience. He was a member of the summer trip, citrus,

and Greenhand committees. Three years in a row, he noted, he won the dairy production entrepreneurship and placement awards.

He plans to work in dairy farming with his family.

Derrick has received the Greenhand, chapter, and area degrees.

Tryphena Addleman



"Learning new things in agriculture" forms the basis for Tryphena Addleman's enjoyment of belonging to the largest agricultural youth organization in the world.

Tryphena, 17, is the daughter of Donald and Colleen Addleman, Boalsburg. Tryphena, three-year

State College Little Lions FFA member,

has served as parliamentarian and president. She has served on the awards, executive, and program of work committees and completed horse production projects.

Tryphena, who hopes to attend Penn State to become an equine veterinarian, has received awards in horse production. She received her Greenhand and chapter degrees.

Steve Appel Jr.



Steve Appel Jr. noted he plans to receive an associate's degree in dairy science and complete sire selection work for a few years. Then the four-year Manor FFA member wants to return to school for his agriculture education

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