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Miller Resolution Honors FFA

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—The House of Representatives recently approved a resolution introduced by Rep. Sheila Miller (R-129) designating Feb. 19-26 as "FFA Week" in Pennsylvania.

This year's theme, "FFA: The Signature of Success," illustrates how FFA's programs allow students the opportunity to apply classroom information to real-life situations.

"The FFA, which began as an organization known as the Future Farmers of America, has offered excellent career and leadership training to our young people studying agriculture and related sciences for more than 70 years," Miller said. "The state association has played—and will continue to play—a major role in our effort to maintain provide future generations of skilled agriculturalists who will make sure this industry remains a leader in Pennsylvania. They will continue to live up to their motto: 'Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve.'"

The state association of FFA was chartered in 1929 and now has approximately 8,000 members in 148 chapters. The nationwide membership of FFA is more than 450,000.

The national organization

dates back to 1928 when, during the National Livestock Judging Contest, 33 students from 18 states joined together to establish the organization with the goal of providing leadership training for farm boys.

Girls were admitted to membership in FFA starting in 1969, and today they make up more than a quarter of the organization's membership.

The FFA mission is to make "a positive difference in the lives of students by devel-

oping their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."

FFA has associations in all 50 states, as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Wins National FFA Speaking Contest

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Elio Chiarelli Jr. of the HG Parkinson FFA chapter placed first in the National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event (CDE) in Louisville during the 72nd National FFA Convention.

Chiarelli received \$1,000 scholarship and \$300 cash. He competed against 48 other participants with his speech, "Is Anything Safe To Eat?"

Event participants are required to deliver a prepared speech on one agricultural topic which may include agriscience and technology, agribusiness, agrimarketing, international relations, and agricultural communications. The speech must be 6-8 minutes in length.

At the conclusion of the speech, the judges may question the speaker for five minutes. Winners are selected on the written manuscript, speech delivery, content and responses to judges' questions.

Events are conducted in local chapters with winners advancing through district, area, and state competitions. National contestants advanced through preliminary and semifinal rounds with the top four speakers competing in the final national event.

The prepared public speaking event and scholarships are sponsored by the FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.


Elio is the son of Elio and Nancy Chiarelli of McDonald. Elio is a 1999 graduate of Fort Cherry High School, where he served as chapter president. Elio is president of the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

He participated in the prepared public speaking contest for three years, placing sixth in the 1997 state contest and third in the 1998 state contest. Elio placed first in the 1999 Pennsylvania prepared

public speaking contest and qualified to represent Pennsylvania in the National FFA prepared public speaking contest.


Elio is the first Pennsylvania FFA member to win the national prepared public speaking contest. His public speaking coach was his chapter adviser, T. Lee Carter.




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