

FFA Discovers The Power At Louisville Convention

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tion to a limited number of individuals that have had a positive impact on FFA and/or agricultural education. Newswanger received the degree on-stage last Friday at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center. Nearly 45,000 FFA students, teachers and agribusiness representatives were present from every state in the nation.

Enos Heisey, was honored with a 25-year sponsor award in appreciation for the encouragement given to students in agricultural education as a sponsor of the National FFA Foundation. Heisey is from Lebanon.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture under the direction of Samuel E. Hayes Jr. received the distinguished service citation for many years of work to encourage agricultural education and FFA by working closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Hayes and his staff provide resources, meeting locations, agriculture knowledge, industry insight, and overall support for FFA in Pennsylvania.

James Bark of Bloomington, Wis., is the new American Star Farmer, and Monte Else of Lincoln, Neb., is the new American Star in Agribusiness.

For the last 35 years, a national ag career show has been held as part of the Convention celebration that is credited as the largest youth career show in the nation. Exhibits range from traditional agriculture and business stalwarts, such as machinery manufactures to specialty suppliers and emerging e-

commerce firms. Many universities and colleges have displays. And Hands-on opportunities for show attendees abound. From changing tires on an official NASCAR racecar to scaling a rock-climbing wall, intriguing possibilities for the adventurous are abundant. Students are exposed to the latest science, business, and high-tech advancements. Exhibitors spend time with students helping them learn about current developments in varied areas ranging from hydroponic gardening to computer simulations.

For the 34th consecutive year, the National FFA Foundation set a record level of support for FFA and agricultural education programs. R. W. Porter, chairman of the foundation board, announced the Foundation had raised \$7,675,000 in 2000 to support annual projects and programs for FFA and ag education-an all-time record. Since 1944, the National FFA Foundation has provided more than \$99 million to FFA members for awards, scholarships, and achievement programs.

FFA is a national youth organization of 455,306 students preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture with 7,226 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. In addition to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, other service citations went to the Ford Motor Company Fund, Dearborn, Mich., and Tractor Supply Company, Nashville, Tenn.

Progressive Farmer Magazine, Birmingham, Al., was a 50-



Eugene P. Klynott, deputy secretary for administration, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, center, accepts the distinguished service citation for the department at the National FFA Convention. With Klynott are members of the Pennsylvania FFA Association officer team. They are Kristen Pfeifer, Jen Whitman, Jen Zimmerman, Lisa Allen, Andrew Flinchbaugh, Jimmy Mullen, Tony Resh, Jess Hyland, Amos Aurand, and Mike Livingston.

year sponsor. Thirty-five-year sponsors from our local area were The Scotts Company, Columbus, Ohio; Universal Lettering, Lima, Ohio; and Wrangler, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Other local state degree recipients include: Delaware, James Borel, president, DuPont Crop Protection.

Georgia, Gale Buchanan, dean, College of Ag and Env. Sciences, University of Georgia; Norman Gay, Credit manager, McCranie Tractor Co.; Jerald Taylor, chief ranger, Georgia Forestry; and Howard Turner, dir. member service, Walton Elec. Membership Corp.

New Jersey, John Grover, former state FFA advisor; Dr. Desiree Little, global reg. Mgr.,

American Cyanamid Co.; and Carol Shipp, chief of staff, New Jersey Dept. of Ag.

North Carolina, Mac Hodges, national FFA alumni president; and Denny Tart, vocational dir. Wayne County Schools.

Ohio, Alan Andreani, Superintendent, Marlinton Local Schools; Dr. Joanna Kister, dir., career-tech and adult education; and Dr. N.L. McCaslin, chair, dept. human and comm resource dev., Ohio State.

Vermont, Gail Kiley-Sanders, state FFA executive secretary.

Virginia, Larkin Phillips, assoc. dir. technical education, Hanover Co. Schools.

Washington DC, Dr. Kevin

Bacon, nat. prog. dir, higher edu. USDA; Debbie Cavett, cooperative state research education/extension service; Dr. I Miley Gonzaler, under secretary, research, education, economics, USDA; Keith Kelly, Farm Services Agency, USDA; and Ted Stevens, US senator.

West Virginia, Roy Cooper, vp, United National Bank; and John Jones, owner, Jones Enterprises, Inc.

Local VIP citation awards went to Howard Minigh, New Jersey, pres. American Cyanamid global ag products; William Boehm, Ohio, vp, logistics, The Kroger Co.; and Phillip Winter, West Virginia ag ed instructor.

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