

# 20-Year-Old Pa. FFA Member Is National Regional V.P.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The National FFA Organization has selected 20-year-old Elio Chiarelli, Jr., McDonald, Pa., as the 2001-2002 National FFA eastern region vice president.

Chiarelli is a member of the H.G. Parkinson FFA Chapter. His parents are Elio and Nancy Chiarelli and FFA advisers are T. Lee Carter and Jodie Chadwick.

Chiarelli was one of six individuals chosen for a national officer position out of a field of 41 candidates. The Penn State University sophomore, who is majoring in agricultural education, hopes to work as an agricultural and environmental science educator.

As an FFA member, Chiarelli participated in three different supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEs). An SAE is a work-based learning experience conducted by a student outside of the classroom and overseen by an agriculture teacher or FFA member. Chiarelli's SAEs included poultry and vegetable production.

Outside of FFA, his activities have included undergraduate research in poultry science, membership on the varsity golf team, and international study abroad. The young man will now be one of only six students who have the rare distinction of serving more

than 457,000 FFA members for the next year.

After returning home to take care of personal and school affairs, these six members will spend a year traveling the U.S. and world. They will become premier representatives of agricultural education and FFA, meeting with top executives throughout the agricultural industry. In addition, these young people will meet thousands of their peers in FFA chapters throughout the country, sharing their needs and ideas with the National FFA Organization.

According to the Pennsylvania FFA Website, Chiarelli was also

very active in his home chapter by serving as treasurer for three years and president his senior year. He has qualified for national contests twice, once for parliamentary procedure and the second for prepared public speaking. He was also selected for three state winning proficiency awards and two national proficiency awards. Also with his record books he was selected as the Western Region Star in the area of production.

In his local chapter, Chiarelli was selected for the star chapter award, the Penn West Region III Farm Credit Award, The Dekalb Award, and many others too numerous to mention.

While serving as Pennsylvania FFA state president, Chiarelli has been selected for the Big E State President Internship and the chairman of the National FFA Publications Committee. Chiarelli has also been awarded more than \$15,000 in college scholarships.

National FFA president is Dane White, Eureka, Calif.; secretary is Robin Niehaus, Hillsboro, Ill.; western region vice president is Abbie Kammerzell, Colfax, Wash.; southern region vice president is Barrett Keene, Plant City, Fla.; and central region vice president is Amber Haugland, Ambrose, N.D.

## Program Features Methods To Till The Soil Of Opportunity

ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — "Tilling the Soil of Opportunity," A NxLevel™ Training in Business Planning for Entrepreneurial Farmers, has been launched to teach small to mid-scale farmers and agricultural professionals needed business skills.

"We recognize the great need to make this kind of business training available to the future stakeholders of Pennsylvania agriculture," said Russell Redding, deputy secretary of agriculture.

NxLevel™ Training will be administered through the Penn State University Cooperative Extension system. The NxLevel™ program was developed by the

University of Colorado at Denver and the University of Nebraska. This program was adopted by Cooperative Extension this past year.

The course is taught in 12, three-hour sessions, helping farmers scrutinize mission and goals, marketing strategies and financial statements, and other critical components of a comprehensive business plan.

The Cooperative Extension is partnering with farm support organizations, banks, and educational institutions to deliver this new training opportunity.

"We think the program is of value, especially with the trying

times farmers are having now," said Dave Smith, at Mid Atlantic Farm Credit. "Opportunity abounds. Many producers are learning to succeed by taking control of their own marketing efforts, and meeting the demands of consumers."

The NxLevel™ training program helps farmers to evaluate strategies such as developing new enterprises and direct marketing, in order to improve farm profitability.

NxLevel™ students include a wide variety of agricultural entrepreneurs, including truck farms,

wholesale growers, and commodity farmers. Courses are adapted region-to-region based on crops grown and marketing outlets.

The new training program was developed with the support of the USDA Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education program. It is available

### USDA Awards \$20 Million To Promote Risk Management

WASHINGTON, D.C. — USDA Secretary Ann Veneman announced funding awards nationwide totaling almost \$20 million in 27 states. The projects are authorized under the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 for the development of new kinds of crop insurance plans and for ways to educate producers about crop insurance and other ways to lessen the risks of farming.

The awards, administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), were given in several categories.

to all farmers and agricultural professionals.

Existing small farmers and related businesses are eligible to sign up for the classes at select centers in Pennsylvania. Currently, there are classes scheduled for:

• Gettysburg: Tuesday, Jan. 15 through April 3, contact Lynn Kime, (717) 334-6271.

• Milton Hershey School: Monday evenings, Jan. 21 through April 8, contact Ed Herrmann,

(717) 270-4391.

• Garden Spot High School: Tuesday evenings, Jan. 15 through April 3, contact Ed Herrmann, (717) 270-4391.

• Allentown: Tuesday evenings, Jan. 8 through March 26, contact John Berry, (610) 391-9840.

• Lewisburg: Tuesday evenings, Feb. 12 through April 30, contact Ken Balliet, (570) 837-4252.

## Schering-Plough Animal Health Day

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10 A.M. - 3 PM

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  - Saber Products
- \* Introducing Jencine-4, a new cattle vaccine. Buy 30 doses and receive another 10 doses free. Three deal limit.
- \* Join us for lunch and visit with Schering Rep. Tom Condrasky

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