

## Two West Snyder Members Named National Finalists In FFA Proficiency Award Program

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — James Wright, 18, and Melissa McWilliams, 18, of the West Snyder FFA Chapter in Beaver Springs, Pa., were each one of four national finalists who competed for the title of national winner in proficiency award program at the 74th National FFA Convention Oct. 24-27, in Louisville, Ky. Wright competed as a finalist in the Poultry Production Proficiency area while McWilliams competed in the Dairy Placement area.

James Wright is the son of Dale and Teresa Wright of McClure. He is a June 2001 graduate of West Snyder High School. He has tapped into the organic foods market by raising organic poultry. He has two chicken houses with a total of 25,000 birds and raises up to 80,000 meat birds per year. One house holds the organic birds, which receive no medication and eat only corn.

Wright also markets his chicken manure to a local farmer. He plans to continue raising poultry until his budding musical career takes off where he can fulfill his

lifetime goal of being a full-time musician.

Melissa McWilliams is the daughter of Lester and Barb McWilliams of Spring Mills, Pa. She has learned both the enjoyment as well as the hard work that comes from being a part of the dairy industry. She increased her placement responsibilities to include such area as milking, mixing feed, vaccinating, and being involved in the daily management of the operation.

McWilliams has invested over 4,200 hours of work time during the past three years in her SAE. She hopes to attain her American FFA Degree within the next year and continue her help with the family dairy operation.

Proficiency award programs recognize FFA members who excelled as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees, or volunteers while they gained hands-on career experience. Poultry Production and Dairy Placement are two of 46 proficiency award categories offered at local, state, and national levels. Wright and McWilliams qualified for the National Proficiency Award by win-

ning the Pennsylvania title and earning gold medals on the national level. They received a trip to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., a cash award, and a plaque while they were recognized on stage at the National FFA Convention.

The Poultry Production Proficiency Award Program is sponsored by Wayne Farms LLC, Chore-Time Equipment Division of CTB Incorporated; United Soybean Board, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Monsanto, Animal Agricultural Group, also a special project of the National FFA Foundation, sponsored the Dairy Placement Proficiency Award Program.



Left to right, Elbert Henderson, regional director, National FFA Foundation, Inc.; Melissa McWilliams, West Snyder FFA Chapter, Beaver Springs, national finalist in Poultry Production Proficiency.



Left to right, Lynn Campbell, senior regional director, National FFA Foundation, Inc.; James Wright, West Snyder FFA Chapter, Beaver Springs, national finalist in Dairy Placement.

### Office Closed Christmas, New Year's

On Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will reopen Wednesday, Dec. 26.

For the Dec. 29 issue, there are some deadline changes:

Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21.

Classified, Section D ads, 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26.

Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27.

General News, noon, Thursday, Dec. 27.

On New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan 1, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will reopen Wednesday, Jan. 2.

For the Jan. 5 issue, there are some early deadline changes:

Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 5 p.m. Friday Dec. 28.

Classified, Section D ads, 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31.

Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2.

General News, noon, Wednesday, Jan. 2.

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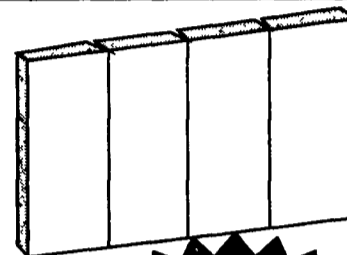
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