

Twin Valley FFA Chapter And Members Receive Awards At National Convention

ELVERSON (Chester Co.) — At the recent national FFA convention, Twin Valley chapter members and the chapter itself garnered awards.

Sophomore Ashley Austin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Austin of Elverson, won a bronze medal in the national FFA creed speaking contest in competition with 46 other speakers.

Creed speakers had to recite the creed before a panel of judges and an audience. The judges then asked each competitor the same three questions. Speakers were judged on their speaking ability as well as their ability to answer the questions.

The Twin Valley chapter received a three star award. 103 three star awards were presented from among the 7500+ FFA chapters in the United States.

Chapter awards are based on a chapter's ability to involve members in a variety of activities in the three areas of student development, chapter development and community development.

Chapters must document their activities as well as the planning for activities - goals, time lines, procedures, benefits to members and the chapter and community, educational value, etc.

With 266 chapter members in the 2000-01 school year, planning and conducting numerous activities was a challenge for chapter officers and advisors.

Major activities highlighted by the Twin Valley chapter application included: chapter participation in state and national activities, recreational activities for members, record book competitions, chapter fund raisers - especially the bulb and citrus sales, chapter officer retreats, all night leadership conference with 99 members in attendance, educational programs for all third grade students in our district, involvement at the Hay Creek Fall and Apple festivals, and a canned food drive where over 2700 cans of food were collected.

Other activities included educational trips to Longwood Gardens, involvement with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, chapter cookouts, baking for shelters, the chapter awards banquet, the agriculture day breakfast, Christmas tree recycling, working on the district environmental education area and third grade educational day at the agriculture department.

The Twin Valley environmental and natural resources team represented Pennsylvania in this relatively new national competition.

Team members demonstrated individual skills by viewing a short video on an environmental concept and then writing a news article, answering questions from a panel of judges on the environmental concept covered in the video, performing soil tests and recommending fertilizers to be applied to produce a crop, judging a soil profile, performing water tests, evaluating a wildlife habitat by identifying all species present and then constructing a food web for the site and making recommendations to improve the site.

Team members also toured a publishing plant and made recommendations on ways to reduce waste from the plant. They were required to identify a wide variety of animal, plants, fish, birds, equipment, induced species, etc. Each team member also took a general knowledge test on environmental principals.



Twin Valley FFA members who helped their chapter win a three star chapter award at the National FFA Convention are, from left: Jed Batchelder, Amanda Peterson, Jennifer Kortze, Vince Hartman, Robert Klinger.



Twin Valley sophomore Ashley Austin (center) with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Austin, Elverson, is congratulated for winning the bronze award for placing third among 47 contestants in the national FFA creed speaking contest.



Members of the Twin Valley FFA natural resources and environmental team who place second in national competition are, from left: Desiree Brungard, Danaan Stoltzfus, Danielle D'Angelo, Joshua Risbon, and Ron Frederick, chapter advisor.

Working as a team they were given an environmental situation. The team had one hour to decide how they would handle the problem (soil compaction this year) and prepare a presentation, including posters and graphics, for a panel of judges. They then had to give their presentation to the judges.

This exceptionally challenging event involved over 10 hours of practicums and tests over a two day period.

In individual placings, Josh Risbon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Binins of Brandamore placed fourth; Danaan Stoltzfus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stoltzfus of Honey Brook, placed eleventh; Danielle D'Angelo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Roush of Birdsboro, placed fourteenth; and Desiree Brungard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Brungard of Elverson, placed eighteenth.

All four members of the team received gold medals. Josh received a \$600 scholarship and Danaan a \$500 scholarship. The team placed second against teams from 33 other states. All team members are seniors and very active members of the Twin

Valley chapter.

Three graduate members of the chapter received the American FFA degree. Kelly Andrews, Julie Peterson and Jamie Powell join a growing list of chapter members who have achieved this award. Kelly, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Andrews of Plowville, is an environmental education major at Penn State University. Julie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson of Honey Brook, is an engineering student at Penn State University. Jamie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Scaramuzzino of Honey Brook, is employed by the U.S. Post Office.

A group of 16 chapter members traveled to the national FFA convention in Louisville with chapter advisor Ron Frederick and Mrs. Frederick as well as Mr. and Mrs. Austin.

Other Twin Valley members attending the convention were: Jed Batchelder, Vince Hartman, Robert Klinger, Jen Kortze, Amanda Peterson, Adam Latshaw, James Love, Melissa Coffey, Becky Peterson, Jason Shermer and Cate Tapp.



West Snyder SUN Degrees; Kennard-Dale Apple Judging



SUN Area FFA Degree winners from West Snyder FFA include, seated, left to right, Phaedra Wray, Lance Herman, Victoria Adams, Derek Fetterolf, Hannah Etzler. Standing, left to right, Tiffany Esbenshade, Doug Hollenbach, Andrew Kreamer, Jenna Briggs, and Daphne Wagner.

10 West Snyder FFA Members Earn SUN Degrees
Ten West Snyder FFA members received the SUN Area FFA Degrees at the SUN area fall meeting recently at Selinsgrove High School.

The West Snyder FFA members who earned their degrees were Victoria Adams, Jenna Briggs, Tiffany Esbenshade, Hannah Etzler, Derek Fetterolf, Lance Herman, Doug Hollenbach, Andrew Kreamer, Daphne Wagner, and Phaedra Wray.

In order to receive the SUN Area FFA Degree, members must have completed two years of agricultural education courses, earned or invested at least \$500 or worked at least 300 hours in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project. Members must also have been in two programs presented to the public and represented the chapter above the area level in an FFA event.

Hannah Etzler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Etzler of Beavertown, was named as the SUN Area Star Farmer. This award is given to those students who have shown premier leadership and an outstanding supervised occupational experience program. Etzler is a vice president in the West Snyder FFA Chapter. Her SAE projects include sheep finishing, sheep breeding, swine finishing, and beef finishing. She earned a gold medal in the State FFA Record Keeping event and represented West Snyder FFA at the Washington Leadership Conference. Her future plans include a four-year degree in Animal Science.



Hannah Etzler, West Snyder FFA vice president of student development, was recently named the SUN Area FFA Star Farmer at the SUN area fall meeting.

FFA Members Excel In Apple Judging
Kennard-Dale FFA members met a challenge as they competed in the only Apple Judging career development event (contest) in the State of Pennsylvania.

Held in Adams County, the apple capital, Nov. 7, the event consisted of identifying apple varieties, disease and insect damage, and judging two classes of apples.

The event was originated because the Biglerville FFA chapter felt that this important Pennsylvania product should be a focus for students. Students gain a broad sense of knowledge on the apple industry through this competition.

Barbara Richardson and Rebecca Butt, of the Kennard-Dale FFA chapter spent many hours learning the varieties of apples and researching common apple insect and disease damage. They also investigated how apples would be scored in a judging event.

In competition with over 40 other FFA members, Richardson earned first place in the event and Butt 21st.



Rebecca Butt, left, and Barbara Richardson, right, Kennard-Dale FFA members, compete in apple judging contest.