

# 246 Pennsylvania FFA Members Earn Keystone Degrees

## MILLIE BUNTING Market Staff

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — Highlighting the annual Mid-Winter Convention of the Pennsylvania FFA will be the presentations of the esteemed Keystone FFA Degree to 246 members.

The awards ceremony will take place Monday, Jan. 7, in the Large Arena of the Farm Show Complex from 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

No other single event in the Pennsylvania Farm Show exemplifies that our future in agriculture and agribusiness is looking good as does the assembly of blue-jacketed young men and women who have earned the state FFA Keystone Degree. They are an impressive sight.

In addition to their families and friends and agribusiness supporters, the event is open to the public. Many farm show go'ers can "sit in" on the ceremony and join in congratulating the FFA'ers who have fulfilled the requirements for a Keystone Degree.

"Soaring Above And Beyond" is the theme for this year's state FFA convention. Judging by the accomplishments of this year's Keystone recipients, the FFA members are currently doing that very well.

Out of about 8,000 FFA members statewide, only three to four percent each year qualify for the Keystone Degree. Only high school seniors or graduates are eligible to apply. They must have demonstrated leadership abilities and have must have participated in the supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program.

From the 246 Keystone Degree achievers, four state stars will be chosen to compete for the state star award. One person is chosen from each of the four regions after being evaluated on four star areas.

Comprising the four star areas are production agriculture; agricultural sales and service and mechanics; horticulture; and specialized agriculture which includes forestry, natural resources, and other nontraditional agricultural endeavors.

Throughout the year, *Lancaster Farming* covers many of the events and activities of the 148 FFA chapters in the state. We continually see the efforts and achievements of the blue-jacketed young people who strive to follow the FFA motto, 12 words to live by — "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." We congratulate the FFA members and wish them continued success in the future.

## Brian Allison



**My Chapter:** Central Cove.  
**How Old I Am:** 18.  
**Parents' Names:** Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Allison.  
**Where I Live:** Williamsburg.  
**The Offices I've Held:** Chaplain, treasurer, and president.

**These Are My Favorite Activities:** FFA Week, SLLC, and public speaking.

**Committee Memberships I've Enjoyed:** Leadership Committee Food for America Committee.

**My Favorite Experience In FFA:** Eastern State Expo.

**What I Hope To Accomplish In The Future:** Operate my own dairy farm.

**The Career I'd Most Like To Have:** Farmer.

**Things I Most Enjoy About Being An FFA Member:** Meeting new people, traveling to new places, and competing at competitions.

## Andrew Richard Alwine



**My Chapter:** Bermudian.  
**How Old I Am:** 17.  
**Parents' Names:** Fred and Pam Alwine.  
**Where I Live:** East Berlin.  
**The Offices I've Held:** 2000-2002: President; 1999-2000: Treasurer.

**These Are My Favorite Activities:** Farming, hunting, fishing, restoring 1952 Ford pickup, and FFA trips.

**Committee Memberships I've Enjoyed:** Executive, fund raiser, social, line dance, program, awards, FFA week, and fall party.

**My Favorite Experience In FFA:** The opportunity to compete with others from across the state and meet new people.

**What I Hope To Accomplish In The Future:** Pa. FFA state officer and become a dairy farmer.

**The Career I'd Most Like To Have:** Dairy farmer.

**Things I Most Enjoy About Being An FFA Member:** FFA conference, Washington leadership conference, state conventions, and judging trips.

## Lacie Anderson



**My Chapter:** Southern Huntingdon County.  
**How Old I Am:** 17.  
**Parents' Names:** George R. Anderson.  
**Where I Live:** Maddensville.  
**The Offices I've Held:** Treasurer.

**These Are My Favorite Activities:** Showing my cows at the fair.

**Committee Memberships I've Enjoyed:** The picnic committee.

**My Favorite Experience In FFA:** Last year's FFA picnic.

**What I Hope To Accomplish In The Future:** Complete college at Penn State Mont Alto.

**The Career I'd Most Like To Have:** Vet.

**Things I Most Enjoy About Being An FFA Member:** The different activities that FFA offers.

## Billie Jo Atkins



**My Chapter:** Cedar Crest FFA.  
**How Old I Am:** 17.  
**Parents' Names:** Bill and Judy Atkins.  
**Where I Live:** Lebanon.  
**The Offices I've Held:** Chapter

Chaplain for two years.  
**These Are My Favorite Activities:** I enjoy playing competitive sports, vol-

leyball and soccer. I am in Students for Christ and I am an active member in Kochenderfers Youth group. I have been an active 4-H member for 10 years. I was the vice president of the swine club. I work on my grandparents' dairy farm and hope to establish my own someday.

**My Favorite Experience In FFA:** My favorite experience in the FFA was attending the 73rd annual National FFA convention in Louisville, Ky. During the convention, I participated in the livestock judging contest as well as attending the different sessions and the concert. I enjoyed meeting new people from different states. I also enjoy Penn State activities week in June.

**What I Hope To Accomplish In The Future:** I hope to graduate from a four-year college and am undecided what I want to major in.

**The Career I'd Most Like To Have:** A field in agriculture.

**Things I Most Enjoy About Being An FFA Member:** I enjoy meeting new people and making friends from various states. I loved competing at Penn State activities week because it enhanced my abilities as an FFA member and livestock judging. Leadership activities that I participated in increased my skills as an officer and proved to be beneficial to our FFA as well. Overall, I enjoyed all aspects that the FFA has provided me.

## Mary I. Aurand

**My Chapter:** Middleburg FFA Chapter.  
**How Old I Am:** 17.  
**Parents' Names:** Harry Jr. and Loretta Aurand.

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