

4-H, FFA Members Will Be Recognized At Fair Banquet

VIRGINVILLE (Berks Co.) — In addition to the outstanding farm family, 4-H'ers and FFA'ers will be recognized at Wednesday's banquet.

The outstanding 4-H members to be recognized this year by the Reading Fair Board will be Heather Seifrit and Jared Treichler.

Jared's main 4-H focus has been the 4-H swine project where he has won two grand champion and one reserve champion 4-H swine project awards.

Jared was a member of the Berks County 4-H Swine Club for seven years and a member of the Berks County 4-H Sheep Club for one year.

He was the high scoring individual in his age division of the 4-H Swine Skill-a-thon for five

consecutive years. Jared served the Berks County 4-H Swine Club as vice president in 2001 and was a teen leader for three years. A 2002 graduate of Fleetwood Area High School where he was a member of the varsity soccer, football and baseball teams. He plans to attend East Stroudsburg University as a biology major in the fall.

Jared Treichler lives with his mother and stepfather, Sandy and George Stump, and his older sister, Melissa, in Fleetwood. Jared's father and stepmother, Rodney and Lonna Treichler, reside in Virginville.

Heather Seifrit is a 10-year member of the Top Notch 4-H Equestrians Club where her main 4-H focus has been 4-H horse projects. She has completed projects

in both the performance (riding) and production (breeding) divisions. She was successful in her riding and raising of horses, qualifying to exhibit at the State 4-H Horse Show five times.

She was named the Outstanding 4-H Horse Club Member in the junior, intermediate and senior divisions by the Berks County 4-H Horse Program. Heather served her club as president, vice president, secretary, news reporter, sergeant at arms, and was a teen leader for six years.

Heather is a 2001 graduate of Daniel Boone Area High School where she was a member of the softball and bowling teams and active in French Club and Key Club. She currently attends Penn State — Berks/Lehigh Valley College with a major in criminal justice.

Heather lives with her mother and father, Betty and Kenny Seifrit in Douglassville. She has an older brother, Harry and an older sister, Debbie.

Anson Dietrich, Kutztown FFA, has been active in the FFA for the past four years, having served as reporter and historian. The scrapbook he prepared this year placed second in state competition. He has also chaired the citrus sale, pumpkin judging, awards banquet, and window exhibit committees.

He has won many awards at the Reading, Kutztown, and Allentown Fairs for tabletop displays. Anson placed first in meat evaluations at Penn State FFA Days and received a silver medal at National Convention. He also attended the FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Anson is a member of National Honor Society and received the Dekalb Award for agriculture and the top accounting award at graduation.

Anson's SAE project is raising broilers and he is also employed in his family's business. Dietrich's Meats and Dietrich Family Farms. He is an active member of Virginville Grange and helps at fairs and banquets.

Anson is the son of Marlin G. and Dawn M. Dietrich.

Andrew Dietrich, Kutztown FFA, has belonged to FFA since ninth grade having served as chaplain, treasurer, and reporter. He also served on the citrus sale and window exhibit committees.

Kutztown FFA's window exhibit received first place at the 2002 Pennsylvania Farm Show. He also has won many awards at the Reading, Kutztown, and Allentown Fairs for tabletop displays. Andrew placed sixth at Penn State FFA Days and received a bronze medal at national convention. He also attended the FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Andrew is a member of the National Honor Society and received the Good Citizenship Award from Michael O'Pake and the top business student award at graduation.

Andrew's SAE is raising hogs and he is also employed in his family's business, Dietrich's Meats and Dietrich Family Farms. He is an active member of Virginville Grange where he serves as steward and also helps at fairs and banquets.

Andrew is the son of Marlin G. and Dawn M. Dietrich of Kempton.

NFU Says Farm Disaster Needs Remain Unmet

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congress missed a chance to provide much-needed disaster assistance for farmers as the Senate passed the defense supplemental bill last week, National Farmers Union said.

"While Congress has assisted other emergency losses, the natural disasters that devastate crop and livestock producers are still ignored," said NFU President Dave Frederickson.

Montana Sens. Max Baucus and Conrad Burns offered a bipartisan amendment to the defense supplemental bill that would have provided \$1.8 billion in emergency assistance for crop production loss due to natural disasters and \$500 million to livestock producers forced to liquidate herds or purchase additional feed rations because of grazing and haying losses. The amendment was not considered due to a procedural move.

Montana Farmers Union President Del Styren, a fourth-generation wheat and barley farmer from Brady, Mont., has experienced the drought effects first-hand.

"In 2001 I could only harvest 25 percent of my acres, and crop insurance hardly covered the production costs so there was little to nothing to live on," Styren said. "In an average year I can yield at least 45 bushels (per acre) of winter wheat and 60 to 65 bushels of barley. Last year I got 15 bushels of barley and no winter wheat."

Styren said some parts of Montana are facing a fourth year of drought conditions. In 2001, the agriculture secretary declared the entire state a disaster. More than 1,500 U.S. counties were also declared agricultural disaster areas due to drought, disease and insect infestations.

Although Baucus tried to address the situation with \$2.4 billion in emergency disaster relief in the Senate farm bill proposal, the House of Representatives rejected the provision in conference and removed it from the final version of the bill.

"The farm bill is a step in the right direction, but disaster assistance is needed now," said Styren. "Five years means nothing to anyone who won't be here in two years. People are hanging on by a thread."

National Farmers Union has strongly supported supplemental emergency disaster assistance through letters and testimony before Congress. Frederickson said his organization will now work toward a disaster assistance amendment to the upcoming agriculture appropriations bill.

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