

Gala FFA Event Honors Members, Families In New Banquet Hall

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Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — "This facility is for you — it's for you throughout your lifetime," said Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes to about 1,500 FFA members, family, and friends.

Hayes, who spoke Monday afternoon at the 74th annual Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention, conducted this year for the first time in the new Banquet Hall at the complex, told the

FFA officers and chapter members that growth "begins with you — not someone else, not some institution. It begins with you."

Hayes was the recipient of the first Dr. Don Evans Friend For Agriculture Award for his influence on the future of state FFA. Hayes urged members, parents, and volunteers to "pick up the torch that he dropped" after Evans died unexpectedly some time ago.

Two hundred and fifty-two members out of 8,000 members in

147 chapters throughout the state received the state's highest honor, the Keystone Degree, during ceremonies Monday afternoon. Information on those award winners was presented in Lancaster Farming in the Farm Show Section E on Jan. 11.

During the ceremonies, awards were presented to the state stars, honoring the "best of the best" in the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

Thomas Carey, Pennsylvania Department of Education, said

the department "understands the importance of ag education."

Carey said, "You are the future leaders in terms of the Pennsylvania farm industry."

He told those present that "true success is loving what you do, who you are, and how you live."

During the ceremonies, Blue

and Gold awards were presented to several for their support of FFA. They included Keith Weigner, public relations, Hatfield Quality Meats; Cliff Day, agriscience instructor, Grassland FFA, Garden Spot High School; and Willie Sole, president of

(Turn to Page A22)



(Outgoing) Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes, center, receives the first Don Evans Friend For Agriculture Award at the FFA convention. With Hayes are Evans' daughters, at left, Jennifer Evans and at right, Tracy Conn with Parker, 3.



Families honored at the FFA Mid-Winter Convention were, front, Lamar and Edith Weaver and back, Dave and Edna Martin.



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