

Scholarships Boost College Funds For Ag-Related Studies

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Food And Family
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LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The seven recipients of Farm and Home Foundation scholarships are smart, hard working, and determined to enter an agriculture-related career field.

These qualities set them apart from other applicants, according to Leon Ressler, director of Lancaster County extension services.

Ressler, who was a former recipient of one of the scholarships awarded annually, said that scholarship amounts have grown from \$400 to \$4,000 since its inception in 1968. To date, 404 scholarships have been awarded to students who pursue agriculture or consumer science education.

The recipients, selected by Foundation committee members, include the following:

• **Jeffrey Erb** grew up working in his parents' (James and Romaine Erb's) fruit and vegetable growing business in Neffsville. Jeff is a former Lancaster County Strawberry Roundup grand champion.

"I love working with plants," he said. "Studying landscape contracting seems like a natural fit."

He will head for Penn State's Main Campus for the four-year degree.

At Lancaster Mennonite, Jeff ran cross country, wrote for the school newspaper, and participated in school plays and musicals.

• **J. Kyle Hershey** said growing up on a dairy farm influenced him to seek a degree in animal sciences. Last year he attended Penn State's Governor's School of Ag Sciences, and knew for sure that Penn State Main Campus is the college of his choice.

After college graduation, Kyle hopes to return to his parents' (Clifford and Mary Lou Hershey's) farm, Mountville, and help make it more efficient. The Hersheys farm 400 acres, milk 100 cows, and raise 100 dairy beef.

At Lancaster Mennonite FFA, Kyle served as chaplain and re-

ceived the Keystone and the DeKalb awards. He is a member of the National Honor Society.

Kyle is a member of the youth group at Rohrerstown Mennonite Church. He also volunteers with the Columbia Reuzit Shop and shovels snow for those in need during the winter months.

• **Paul W. Hostetter** is probably best known as a former Pennsylvania FFA president. The Lancaster Mennonite graduate deferred college plans to concentrate on FFA leadership responsibilities. When his term ended, Paul fulfilled a dream to lead guided elk hunts in the western U.S.

Leading hunts was exciting, but the work gave him no time to hunt elk for himself.

"It was a learning experience. I learned to work with all types of people and in all kinds of situations," Paul said.

He believes his work experience will assist him in completing college studies within a 3½-year period.

Unlike the other scholarship winners, Paul is already in college. He spent the past semester at Penn State University Main Campus, where he is studying poultry science with an ag business minor.

Paul grew up on his parents, James and Mary Louise Hostetter's, crop and hog farm in Holtwood. Paul has taken a special interest in poultry, which he believes offers many career opportunities.

Paul is a member of the Penn State Block and Bridle Club and Collegiate FFA. Both clubs, he said, volunteer their services to help with community and world needs. This included a World Hunger Project by helping with the Mennonite beef canning enterprise and making Easter baskets for needy children.

• **Sarah Quigg** is heading to the University of Delaware to prepare for agriculture education.

"I have taken ag classes since 10th grade and learned so much. FFA has given me so many opportunities to succeed, I'd like to give back by becoming an FFA teacher," Sarah said. "I believe

agriculture will continue to be influential in the world."

The 18-year-old daughter of Allen and Marie Quigg, Narvon, earned awards and a Keystone Degree in FFA. She is first vice president of her chapter.

At Pequea Valley, Sarah plays saxophone for marching, concert, jazz, and county bands, wind ensemble, and the school musical. She serves as treasurer for Interact, is yearbook manager, writes for the school newspaper, and is a member of the National Honor Society. She is active in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in New Holland, where she also substitute teaches for children's classes.

Sarah plans to run for a state FFA office. If she is selected, she will defer college plans for one year.

• **Joshua A. Shenk** is headed to Penn State Berks Campus to study agricultural business. The Lampeter-Strasburg senior did not grow up on the farm, but when he wanted a part-time job, he began working for dairy farmers Glen and Dana Good.

"It became much more than a job to me. I knew this was the direction I wanted to go with my life," Jeffrey said. "I see a need

for farmers to keep the tradition to feed the world's growing population."

Joshua said that he enjoys all aspects of his farm job.

He lives with his parents Allen and Rosanne Shenk and a sister in Strasburg.

At school, Joshua is active in FFA and Fellowship of Christians, and served as yearbook business manager and as a sports statistician.

He is active in the Lampeter United Methodist Church and its youth group and helps annually with the Black Rock Ox Roast.

• **Kate Sollenberger**, at 18 years of age, has already gathered accolades for her entrepreneurship. She received the State FFA Star Agribusiness Award for starting an equine business and will compete at the national level in September.

Kate said that she buys, resells, and boards horses, gives riding lessons, trains horses, and shows them for others.

"I've been involved in all aspects of equines, so I tried to generate income to save for college," she said. Kate chose Delaware Valley College, where she will study ag education and minor in equine science.

She lives with her parents,

Larry and Molly Sollenberger, on a 10-acre farmette in Ephrata. She received her first horse when she was eight years old. Since none of her family were into horses, Kate said the total work responsibility is hers.

During college, she plans to downsize to two horses, but again start up her business after earning a master's degree.

At Ephrata High School, Kate plays lacrosse and is president and student adviser of the FFA Chapter.

• **Regina Zimmerman** grew up with zebras, monkeys, and kangaroos as pets. With her parents, Paul and Brenda Zimmerman, she helped set up petting zoos, incorporating their collection of exotic animals and also helped on the family dairy farm in Litzitz.

"I learned that I wanted to do something with animals and people," Regina said of her career choice to study animal science at Penn State Berks Campus. She'd like to work as an animal medic or in vet sales.

At Ephrata High School, Regina participates in track, cross-country, and FFA.

She is active in the youth group at Ephrata United Zion Church.

Livestock Projects Teach Responsibility

NEW TRIPOLI (Lehigh Co.)

— Win or lose, livestock competition at fairs is the training ground for future leaders. A child's dedication to their animal, whether it be a rabbit or a 1,100-pound steer is a special bond. This bond helps make the daily tasks of feeding the animal go a little smoother. As the project continues, the fitting and showing of the animal takes on new meaning as the youth realizes that it is his or her responsibility to train and get ready for the "command performance" in the showing at the fair.

Without even realizing it, other traits which will stay with the youngster are also being learned. The Josephson Institute of Ethics put together a curriculum a few years ago which identified six

core values which describe the importance of youth livestock projects. They feel that the overall purpose of the project is to provide opportunities for young people to develop character. The character traits identified and some of the practices follow:

A. Trustworthiness — includes honesty, promise keeping, and loyalty.

- daily feeding, watering of animals (promise keeping)

- adheres to possession deadlines (honesty)

- adheres to withdrawal times on drugs and de-wormer

- only the appropriate use of drugs

B. Respect — includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- proper handling of animals treat humanely

- proper care of animals

- listens to and follows advice of advisors

- recognizes that animal projects are dependent on 4-H'er and provides the daily feed and water

C. Responsibility — includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability, and perseverance.

- daily feeding and watering (even on the busy, difficult days)

- goes beyond providing the daily needs of the animal in giving additional time and attention to produce a winner

- adheres to deadlines for entry forms and for arrival at livestock shows

- never gives up in the showing (perseverance)

D. Fairness — involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

E. Caring — promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

This list is not complete, but shows that livestock projects offer numerous opportunities to build character.

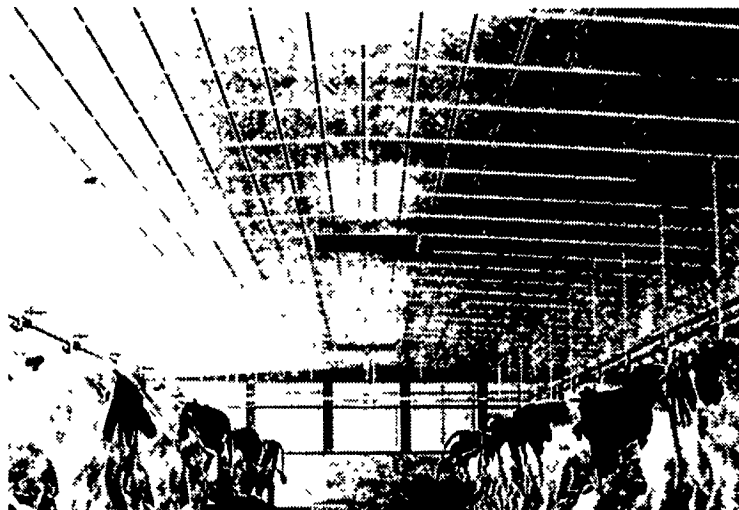
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