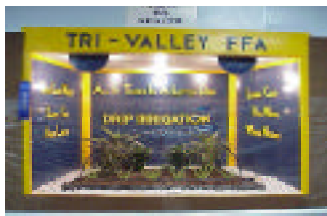




BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

February 2001, *Special Edition*

Tri-Valley High School Wins Window Exhibit



Students from the Tri-Valley High School, Schuylkill County, captured 1st place in the School Window Exhibit competition at the PA State Farm Show.

The blue ribbon display, entitled “Drip Irrigation: All it takes is a Little Drip,” had a small example of what a drip irrigation system would look like using actual tubing and drip heads and live plants. The benefits of this type of irrigation were given on the sides of the exhibit.

The 2nd place ribbon went to Newport High School for their exhibit, “Bats: Beneficial Residents in our Communities.” Different types of constructed bat hutches and the benefits of bats were displayed.

Other winners included Upper Dauphin HS (3rd place), Cedar Crest HS (4th place), Greenwood HS (5th place), Line Mountain HS (6th place), Manheim Central HS (7th place), Selinsgrove HS (8th place), Kutztown HS (9th place) and Mifflinburg HS (10th place).

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Special Edition



Eastern York FFA Wins Landscape Exhibit

FFA members from Eastern York High School, York County, captured 1st place in the FFA Landscape Exhibit competition at the Farm Show. The “East End Café”



1st Place Landscape Exhibit

was the backdrop for the landscape exhibit containing a small table and chairs, a wooden bench and window box gardens. This exhibit was also named Best Landscape Design and Best Landscape Blueprint.

Second place was awarded to Manheim Central HS in Lancaster County. This exhibit was designed as an evening city skyline. Similar

to the 1st place landscape, the foreground featured an ornate

table and chair set. Best Landscape Non-Living Materials Selection was also awarded

to this exhibit.

Other award winners include Brownstown Central HS earning 3rd place and Best Landscape Plant Materials Selection, Pequea Valley HS earning 4th place, Selinsgrove Area HS receiving 5th place, Halifax HS earning 6th place, York County School of Technology receiving 7th place, and Mifflinburg Area HS earning 8th place.

Agriculture Demonstrations Culminate on "Youth Day"

Cheesemaking, trapping, chainsaw safety and ATV safety are only a few of the many topics covered during the School Demonstrations competition in the Family Living and

Agricultural Learning Center at the 85th State Farm Show. FFA groups from



across the state were invited to participate in the annual event that challenges students to prepare and present an informative speech about an agricultural or environmental topic in only 15 minutes.

Students could enter as a group of two, three or four and were judged in four main categories: Topic and Content, Appearance of Presenters and Materials, Presentation (including Effectiveness of Speech), and Total Effectiveness, which evaluates the educational value and credibility of the presentation.

The three judges who presided over the event have been involved with the event and FFA for many years. Judge William Dannenhauer of Delaware is a retired educational administrator who first came to the Farm Show in 1956

as an FFA participant. Judge Richard Strangeway of Grahamsville, New York, was an FFA advisor for 29 years before his retirement. Dr. Robert Walker from Tyrone,

Blair County, was a teacher involved with FFA for 18 years. He has also been a Field

Director for the Department of Education in Pennsylvania.

Students were allowed to participate during class time and were required to practice their presentation many times between the middle of October, when the registration forms were due and the event at the Farm Show, according to Sam Byers. Mr. Byers is an FFA advisor and agricultural teacher for Faust Junior High School in Chambersburg, Franklin County, who brought five teams to this year's competition. There is no limit on the number of teams that each junior or senior high school can enter.

There were 20 place winnings for this competition. The 1st place team received \$80 and all other teams received other monetary awards.

Presentations at Farm Machinery Displays

FFA members from twelve Pennsylvania schools presented farm machinery demonstrations to visitors at the 85th PA State Farm Show. This year's expanded farm machinery display featured equipment used for preparation, planning and seeding, grain harvesting and materials handling.

FFA members and sales representatives from every major farm equipment manufacturer were at the Farm Show to answer questions and give presentations about the equipment.

Gina Lehman, FFA member from Cumberland Valley FFA, Cumberland County said, "The farm equipment presentations allow FFA members to learn about different types of farm machinery and use that knowledge to educate the public about the process of food production in Pennsylvania."

FFA chapters participating in the demonstrations included Cumberland Valley, Dover, Gettysburg, Greenwood, Manheim Central, McConnellsburg, Middleburg, Mifflinburg, Newport, Solanco, Upper Dauphin and West Snyder.

FFA Members Discover the Power at the 72nd Mid-Winter Convention

Riding in a horse-drawn carriage and driving a John Deere, the 2000-2001 State FFA Officer Team kicked off the 72nd Annual Mid-Winter FFA Convention with their theme "Discover the Power" at the 85th Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

After opening ceremonies and a welcome from the state officers, Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes addressed a crowd of over 1500 people. "Work hard and prepare yourselves for an exciting 21st Century. FFA will help you 'discover the power' and help you face the challenges to take advantage of the opportunities that arise." After speaking, Secretary Hayes was presented with the Outstanding Cooperator Award, one of only six granted in the nation.

Doyle Paul, agriculture teacher from Berlin Brothersvalley FFA, was presented with the Outstanding Service Citation, also one of only six awarded nationwide.

The prestigious Honorary Service Award was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Day for their continued support and guidance to the state officers and the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

Hope Roush from Greenwood FFA received the H.O. Sargent Award for encouraging diversity within her community. Elveita Kuhn, New Oxford FFA, won the essay contest held for those receiving their Keystone Degree.

Nine Honorary Keystone Degrees were given to outstanding parents who have devoted their time to helping three children



Sam Hayes, PA Secretary of Agriculture, addresses the convention audience.

earn Keystone Degrees. Special parent awards were bestowed upon Daniel & Iona Corle and George & Linda Webb. The Corles watched their fourth child receive his Keystone Degree while the Webbs saw their sixth child earn her Keystone Degree.

The following twenty-two FFA chapters received recognition as Superior Chapters: Bellwood - Antis (Bellwood-Antis HS), Big Spring (Big Spring HS), Brothersvalley (Berling Brothersvalley HS), Cedar Crest (Cedar Crest HS), Central Columbia (Central Columbia HS), Cloister (Ephrata HS), Conococheague (James Buchanan HS), Cumberland Valley, Danville, Dover, Grassland (Garden Spot HS), Greenwood, Hans Herr (Lancaster Mennonite

HS), Manheim (Manheim Central HS), Manor (Marion Center Area HS), Middleburg (Middleburg HS), Mifflinburg (Mifflinburg Area HS), Redbank Valley (Redbank Valley HS), Selinsgrove (Selinsgrove Area HS), Spud Growers (Coudersport Area HS), Twin Valley (Twin Valley HS) and West Snyder (West Snyder HS).

Regional stars in Production, Agriculture Sales/Service, Specialized Agriculture and Horticulture were recognized and from these winners the State Star Farmer and State Star Agribusiness were named. This year's Star Farmer and the State Star in Production was Susan M. Richardson from the Kennard Dale FFA Chapter. The State Star Agribusiness was Jeremy Weber from Grassland FFA who was also the State Star in Specialized Agriculture. These individuals will represent Pennsylvania at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts. The other state stars were Nicole Brown, Spud Growers FFA, Star in Horticulture; and Chet R. Brubaker, Cedar Crest FFA, Star in Agriculture Sales/Service.

"The Mid-Winter Convention is held annually to recognize FFA members across the state who have achieved the Keystone FFA Degree, the highest honor that a state association can award a member," said James Mullen, Pennsylvania State FFA President. This year 224 members re-

History of the Farm Show Complex

“Even though the Pennsylvania Farm Show began in 1917, the actual building that now houses the event was not constructed until 1929. The Farm Show Commission approved a state-owned, vacant 40-acre site to be the permanent location of the Complex. The construction contract was awarded on October 29, 1929, the same day the Stock Market crashed, signaling the start of the Great Depression.

Fortunately, the funding for construction was approved during the 1929 Legislative Session. If it had been delayed until the 1931 session, the Farm Show Building may not have been built. The building was dedicated on the opening day of the 1931 Farm Show. The original building consisted of the 10-acre Main Building, which includes the Small Arena. One of the most distinctive features on the building is the frieze depicting cattle, swine, poultry and other farm animals parading around the upper level of the facade.

Between 1931 and 1993, the Farm Show Complex grew to the size it is currently. Additions included the Large Arena in 1939, major renovations in

the 1970's and the Northeast Building in 1993. Also during this time, the Complex suffered through at least 3 major floods, numerous snowstorms, and an



W.B. Saul FFA Members' Show Cattle housed at the Farm Show.

occupation by the Army Air Corps training program and engine repair department. There were several years, including a 4-year period during World War II, when the annual event had to be scaled down due to space limitations.

Now the Farm Show Complex is in for another major renovation. In August 2000, Governor Ridge announced that \$66.2 million would be made available for the Farm Show Complex Improvement Project. The new addition would add approximately 250,000 square feet of exhibit space. This is almost double the size of the current

main floor of the building. The new addition will be clear-span with no supporting structures and will house not only livestock in a comfortable environment, but also allow commercial shows the opportunity to grow. The renovations also include the installation of the heating and air conditioning system” (http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Agriculture/bureaus/farm_show/2001farmshow/mediaguide.pdf, p. 25 – 26).

Keep your eyes open for the new renovations to start this year.

(convention...cont'd from p. 3)

ceived their Keystone FFA Degrees. During the ceremony, Dr. Kerry Richards recognized the New Oxford FFA Chapter for its donation of \$25,000 to the FFA Foundation and Quality Farm & Country for its donation of \$30,000 to the Foundation.

The FFA Mid-Winter Convention is held in conjunction with the 85th Pennsylvania State Farm Show, the largest indoor agricultural event in the nation with 16 acres under roof.

Briefs to Ag Educators is a publication of the Center for Professional Personnel Development, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Editors: Tiffany Roberson, Carol Hodes and Thomas Bruening. Phone: 814-863-7876; Fax: 814-863-4753; email Tiffany at tmr175@psu.edu

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