



Students get awards

Twenty students shared in 46 awards and cash prizes at the Alaska Association of Future Farmers of America's second state conference, held April 27-29 in Anchorage.

Students attending were selected from the state's 135 FFA members, representing Bethel, Delta Junction, Kivalina, Newhalen, Nome and Selawik. The conference was the first competitive event for the two-year-old group, part of the national FFA organization promoting leadership, character, scholarship, occupational pride, and improvement of community resources.

In addition to student and chapter awards, the group presented the FAA's highest state-level award, "Honorary Farmer," to Sen. Jalmar M. Kerttula (D-Palmer) for "his continued work and support for agriculture and the FFA in the state of Alaska."

Student competition centered primarily on national and state-side FFA proficiency tests. Cash prizes, plaques, certificates and pins were awarded, depending on the categories and placement in each. Prizes were donated to the state and national organizations by private individuals and businesses.

Top prize winner was Delta Junction's Cathy Hendricks, who took first place in four categories: in citizenship, FFA knowledge, project record books and flora culture.

Gerald Anelon, Newhalen, placed first in home improvement and presentation of the FFA creed. Also taking two first-place awards each were Robert Hendricks, Delta Junction, for agriculture mechanics and extemporaneous speaking, and Becky Rotzler, Bethel, agricul-

ture processing and "FFA sweetheart."

Kivalina's Steve Hawley won first place in the electrical contest. Nome, Briday Green, crop proficiency, and Becky Stephens, fruit and vegetable production. Delta Junction students took home the remaining first-place awards: Jodi Anderson, horticulture; Ellen Hendricks, agriculture sales and service; Frank Keaster, diversified livestock; David Lintleman, dairies; Steve Lintleman, poultry; and Randy Souhrada, public speaking (prepared speech).

Award-winning chapters were Delta Junction, for superior FFA chapter; Bethel, community service; and Newhalen, safety promotion. Newhalen and Selawik also earned certificates for having 100 percent of their agriculture program students enrolled in FFA.

The conference was coordinated by Gladys Tinney and Verdell Jackson of the Alaska Department of Education. Tinney, recently named to manage the state's sex equity program, was instrumental in developing the FFA program while she was home economics and agriculture program manager at the department. Jackson, rural secondary vocational program manager, is serving as acting state FFA director. Steve Talovich, agriculture instructor from Delta Junction, was selected as state FFA advisor.

Assisting in organizing competitive events were: Ron Crawford, assistant supervisor of agriculture for Washington State; Jay Albert, Washington State FFA officer; Howard Morrison, national FFA president, Wayne Vandre and Earl Bracewell, of the University of Alaska's Cooperative Extension Service.