

Brother, Father, Instructor



Looking over the 1956 tobacco crop is a foursome that is making records in the southern end of the County, from left to right, Jackson H. Owen of the Solanco High School vo-ag department; Donald

Deiter, 9; Roy Deiter and his son, Raymond, 16, who this week was recognized for his work in the Sears Gilt project. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo)

Raymond Deiter, New Providence, Wins County Gilt Project Honors

By Ernest J. Neill

Honored at a countywide meeting in Ephrata Monday night, Raymond Deiter, 16, of the New Providence neighborhood, has decided that his Sears Gilt Project may be the starter of a hog feeding project in the hills of southern Lancaster County

Raymond, the son of Mr and Mrs Roy Deiter, was awarded his Sears Yorkshire gilt in 1954, a gilt that originated in the herd of Albert Cutler.

"She was a very easy feeder," Raymond told of Susie, "but she got fat too quickly." As the accompanying pictures show, Susie has put on considerable poundage under the sympathetic hand of her young owner.

"I liked the project," he told at the farm, "and gained a lot of experience through-it. I never had tried hogs before, and we

only had two before that I can remember I plan to build a fence in the orchard and put in fattening hogs. Maybe at the shop, I can build a self-feeder and waterer."

The shop he spoke of is the



RAYMOND DEITER

Raymond Deiter, honored this week at Ephrata for his work in the Sears' Gilt Award project.

vocational agriculture department of Solanco High School in Quarryville, where Raymond is a member of the junior class and belongs to the Groundhog chapter of the Future Farmers of America His instructors, Jackson H. Owen and Luther D. Peck, gave encouragement to Raymond, to the extent that instead of quitting school at 16 to begin farming as he planned, he became so interested in vo-ag that

he wanted to stay in school. Such he has done, with the encouragement of his father and mother.

His interest in school extends farther, for he's a pitcher on the Solanco baseball team and, when spring training fell right at the same time as spring farm work, Raymond would often walk 10 miles to his home northwest of Quarryville.

Susie produced 14 pigs in her first litter, and these will be marketed this fall, netting Raymond about \$150, he figures. There were problems with the first litter Susie went dry. Her pigs were bottled two or three days, at first in the warm kitchen of the Deiter home after as they gained strength, they began to feed themselves, and went back to the barn with Milk-saver as a starter, then Eastern States Pig Primer and corn. This was during Raymond's freshman days in high school.

For a sire, Raymond used a purebred Yorkshire boar furnished by Jim Hastings of Kunkwood.

To show what a change this Sears project has meant to Raymond, he told. "After high school I hope to start farming, and hogs will be included. It depends on how everything else goes."

Land around the Deiter farm is rolling. It's in the Smithville Hills, land that demands good care to prevent washing and erosion. Due to conservation practices, the land doesn't wash too much. "We keep gutters wherever we can," the father and son explained, "There was some washing when we came, but now we're plowing some of that same land."

Susie has meant much to this high school junior. She stood second in class at the Southern Lancaster County Fair in Quarryville, second in fitting, third in judging for her class.

As his FFA project, Raymond is growing a half acre of corn, two acres of tobacco, maintaining the sow and eight fattening pigs — all Yorkshires. One field has been in corn eight years, and still produces a top-notch crop. On each acre, 150 lbs of ammonium nitrate are applied, and rye grass is used as a cover crop.

Of the 100 acres on the Deiter farm, 60 are tillable. There are five acres of tobacco, 16 of corn, 10 acres of wheat, orchard for pasture and about four acres of meadow. Wheat yielded 175 bags this year — 35 bushels per acre at least.

The Deiter family moved to the Smithville area eight years

This Is Susie



Far grown from her size a couple years back, Susie here shows why she has become an outstanding project for her owner, Raymond Deiter. (see accompanying story) (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

ago from a 140-acre farm near Bunker Hill in Strasburg Township. Here farming was really learned.

Raymond has two sisters and a brother, Ruth 19, who has gone two years to Solanco; the twins Donald and Dorothy, 9, who are in Providence Township Elementary School. Raymond himself attended Bunker Hill School two years, Rising Sun two years, and he completed the eighth grade at Clearfield before transferring to Quarryville.

Crops this year have been excellent for the Deiters. Clover yielded well after the first crop was sprayed by army jeep. Two cows are maintained for family use.

Here is a story of well-applied methods to make a rundown farm produce, and at the same time the land is being improved. Here too is proof how encour-

agement can cause one to continue school, and become an outstanding student as well as a project prize-winner.

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