

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, October 17, 1959

\$2 Per Year



GRAZING IS THE GOAL in the quality roughage program Dean has planned. This year he planted 11 acres of Sudan grass which he started chopping. The cows were on pasture this year because the program is not yet in full operation. It is the first year that no grain was grown on the farm, but Dean believes milk production per acre can be realized if the feed is brought to the cows as a self-feeding arrangement. He uses a self-unloading wagon and an electric fence to complete the arrangement.

County Hatcheries Place Random Sample Tests

Results from the second annual Pennsylvania random egg laying test show several County hatcheries placed in the top 25% in almost all categories. A total of 48 hatcheries from the state entered birds in the contest conducted in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture.

House records for Sept. 15, Greider Farms, Mt. Joy, Pa., with its pen of 100 White Leghorns returned over 25% of the test. Other records from the poultry farm, Ephrata, Pa., placed eleventh in the test. It was won by Guy and Sons, York R2, with 100 White Leghorns.

Hatchery, Doylestown, placed first with 266.8 eggs per bird. Greider Hatchery was fifth with an average of 256.0. Keystone's Leghorn finished 12th with 246.6 eggs per hen. The contest pitted the pullets against each other in nine different categories including income over feed and chick cost. Egg production per pullet housed. Days to 50% production, Mortality. Per cent of large eggs, Albumen quality and per cent of blood spots in the eggs.

Keystone Hatchery entry placed in the upper quarter in four of the divisions and in the second quarter in two other divisions.

Greider birds placed in the first quartile in four divisions and in the second quartile in three others.

The entry from Longenecker placed twice in the first grouping and four more times in the second group.

County Leaders Meet

Smith, newly elected 4-H club leader, was the main speaker at the meeting of the County 4-H club council, scheduled for October 22 in the auditorium of the Lancaster Hotel.

Professor of Farm Management at the Pennsylvania State University, P. Lang, retired after 25 years as State leader. The meeting was open to all 4-H club leaders for the purpose of adoption and by-laws. County Agent Merriam urges all club members to come to the meeting with suggestions for the 4-H club. Refreshments will be served.

FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Saturday - Wednesday
Temperatures will average 3 to 6 degrees below normal during the next 5 days. Normal temperatures locally are a low of 46 at night rising to 66 during the afternoon. Weather will be warm Saturday turning colder Saturday night and Sunday with a warming trend beginning Tuesday or Wednesday. Scattered showers are expected Saturday and again on Tuesday or Wednesday, but the total amount is not expected to exceed 1/4 inch.

Poultrymen Plan Banquet

H. Grant Hurst, French instructor at McCaskey High School, will be the main speaker at the annual banquet of the Lancaster County Poultry Association, October 29.

Mr. Hurst is well known in this area for his humorous and inspiring talks to groups of adults as well as youths.

The program, scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Blue Ball fire hall, will also feature musical entertainment by Sandy and Terry Good and Elizabeth Moseman, all of Lancaster R7, and group singing led by Glenn G. Herr of Lancaster R7.

Special guests at the banquet will include Roy B. Herr, Lampeter, Pennsylvania Poultryman of the year, and Miss Verma Witmer of Millersville R1, 1959 Lancaster County poultry queen.

Tickets are now available and reservations should be made in advance by calling the Lancaster Poultry Center, EXpress 7-0339 or by contacting any director of the association.

Dean Hoffer Is Elected F.F.A. Nat'l V. President

Dean Hoffer, a 19-year-old graduate of Manheim Central High School, became the first Lancaster County member ever to be elected to a national office in the Future Farmers of America.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hoffer, Manheim R3, Dean assumed the duties of vice president of the North Atlantic region of FFA at ceremonies in the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium Thursday night at the closing session of the organization's 32nd annual convention.

An interested spectator at the installation ceremonies was Joseph H. McGahan, teacher of Vocational Agriculture at Manheim Central, and Hoffer's advisor during the six years he has been in Future Farmer work. Attending with him were Kenneth Boose, Lititz R2, and Gerald Greiner, Manheim R4. Boose received the American Farmer degree along with Hoffer at ceremonies earlier in the week. Greiner, as Pennsylvania's FFA president, is official delegate for the state's 11,000 members.

"That was the last year we had any poultry on the farm," says Dean. "Now everything we grow goes into the mouths of my dairy cattle."

During his sophomore year in high school, Dean increased his cropping program to include five acres of mixed hay, one acre of barley, two acres of oats and two acres of wheat. His sheep flock increased to four head, but his most significant decision was to buy 14 young dairy heifers from his father.

Hoffer, a 1957 graduate, is one of the youngest vice presidents in the history of the organization. He was installed immediately and began his duties yesterday by attending leadership training conferences. Today, he and the other officers will be guests at the opening session of the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City before returning home.

Leadership qualities began to show themselves during that year when Dean was elected vice president of the local chapter FFA.

His duties this year will require his attendance at conventions in all the 14 states in the North Atlantic region as well as tours of good will to many of the other sections of the country. During the year he will come in contact with many of the organization's 381,000 members in all the continental states as well as Puerto Rico and the new state of Hawaii.

Dean began farming in earnest during the 1955-56 school term when his dairy herd grew to 20 cows and 11 calves and heifers. He continued to carry and increase his grain program, but that year he included in his schedule the improvement of 20 acres of permanent pasture. He also grew 53 acres of mixed hay and was well on his way to the forage program he follows with his dairy herd today.

Dean has come a long way since he began his farming program six years ago as a freshman in Vocational Agriculture at Manheim Central High School. That year he carried a program consisting of three sheep, 100 laying hens, 400 pullets, and two acres of hay. Even then he had an ambitious program mapped out for a 13-year-old boy. He received his Greenhand degree in the Manheim chapter FFA and became active in its activities.

Wins Fair Prizes

At the Lampeter Community Fair that fall, Dean won two prizes that were of great help in FFA work. The Lancaster County Ayrshire breeders awarded him a purebred calf on the basis of a written application. The animal is still in the herd as is one of her offspring, a heifer bred to freshen during the winter. These are the only two animals in the herd that are not black and white.

At the same fair he won first place in county FFA dairy judging which gave him the opportunity to represent his chapter in the state contest the following June.

Later that same winter (Turn to page 12)



GOOD RECORDS are good business. Dean Hoffer has learned that complete and accurate records are an essential part of successful farming. Here with Dean, center, are his teacher of Vocational Agriculture, Joseph H. McGahan, left, and Mr. Thomas M. Malin, York-Lancaster Area Advisor of FFA, checking some of the farming accounts to be sent to the National examining board with his application for the American Farmer degree.