

THE HEART OF A DAIRY program is forage, Dean Hoffer believes. He carefully checks the growth of a new seeding of a mixture of rye and oats to be used this fall as temporary pasture for his dairy herd. Making every acre produce to its capacity, Dean seeded 25 acres of this mixture after harvesting a crop of soybeans and sorghum from this field for silage.

● **Dean Hoffer**
(From page 1)

the county Holstein breeders sponsored a membership drive and contest. Dean won the contest and was presented with another calf, a purebred Holstein which is now in the milking string.

The Manheim chapter again elected him vice president and the following summer, 1956, he represented Lancaster County FFA at the American Institute of Cooperation in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As a senior Dean increased his dairy herd to 32 cows and 11 calves and heifers, and continued with his cropping system.

It was during his last year in high school that his leadership ability began to be felt outside the Manheim chapter. As local chapter president he was their candidate for county FFA president. He won a unanimous decision and served in that office for 12 months.

Turning his talent to public speaking, he won the area and district contests and placed sixth in state competition in June 1957, with a speech on soil conservation. He was publicly complimented on his fine presentation of the speech by Pennsylvania's Governor George Leader.

With his dairy herd grown to 32 cows and 11 head of calves and heifers, Dean began planning his long range forage program. He continued to plant some grain, but increased his acreage of temporary pasture.

Keystone Degree Awarded
The Pennsylvania Association FFA awarded him its highest award, The Star Keystone Farmer, in January '58, and elected him president at the convention at Penn State University in June of the same year.

His leadership activities had attracted him to another group, and during the same year he succeeded from the post of president in the Manheim Young Farmers Association to president of the Pennsylvania state association of the organization.

During his tenure as state FFA president Dean traveled more than 9,000 miles and presented over 50 talks to civic clubs, farm organizations, and local FFA chapters.

As official delegate from Pennsylvania to the 1958 National FFA Convention, Dean served on the nominating committee for National officers. He also became a member of the Governors' Committee for Children and Youth in preparation for the 1960 White House conference.

With all his activities away from home Dean still finds time to do most of the work on the 105 acres on the home farm and the 20 acres of rented land.

Dean is sole owner of the 62 head of registered Holstein dairy animals and the complete line of grassland farming equipment. He owns a half interest in the home farm on which he raised this year 40 acres of mixed hay, 34 acres of soybeans and sorghum for silage, 11 acres of Sudan grass for green chop feeding, and 25 acres of rye and oats mixture for temporary pasture. He still has 20 acres of permanent pasture, but no corn or small grain.

With 38 cows in milk, 13 bred heifers and 11 younger heifers, Dean feels that it is more economical to buy what grain he needs than to raise it. He buys corn and oats and supplements them with a 30% liquid protein concentrate at the rate of 2 pounds per animal per day. Dean believes he can reduce this amount of supplement with higher quality hay and silage and a good green chop program. Thirty four acres of alfalfa and orchard grass were band seeded this year.



NO GENTLEMAN FARMER is Hoffer. His herd of 38 registered Holstein milkers are accustomed to seeing him in the barn in his work clothes. With his many commitments away from home as state FFA and Young Farmer presidents, Dean has had to have some help with the chores, but when he is at home, the daily routine of caring for the milking string gets his personal attention.

"I would like to eventually work into a zero grazing system", says Dean, "But it will take some time to get it completely set up."

"Improvements take time with me away from home so much" Dean explains as he points out the automatic gutter cleaner installed last winter.

"Next year I hope to completely fill the trench silo. This year we put 34 acres of soybeans and sorghum in it and I think it will hold fifty" explains Dean, "But those things have to be worked out."

Active in many Farm Organizations

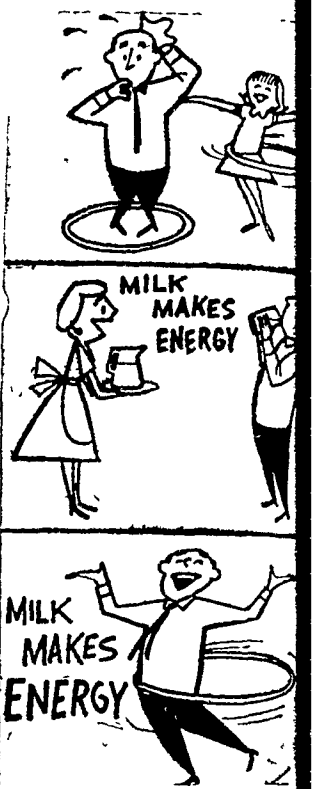
Dean Hoffer would be a busy young man even without his work in FFA. Some of the organizations which claim him among their membership are Manheim Community Farm Show of which he is director and vice president, Red Rose Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Lancaster County Cooperative Youth Council, County senior extension club, County Holstein 4-H club, Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative through which he markets his milk, Lancaster County Farm Bureau, Eastern States Cooperative Farmers Exchange, Southeastern Pennsylvania Artificial Breeders Cooperative, and the county, state, and national branches

of the Holstein - Freisian Breeders Associations. He is also on the executive committee of the state association of Young Farmers.

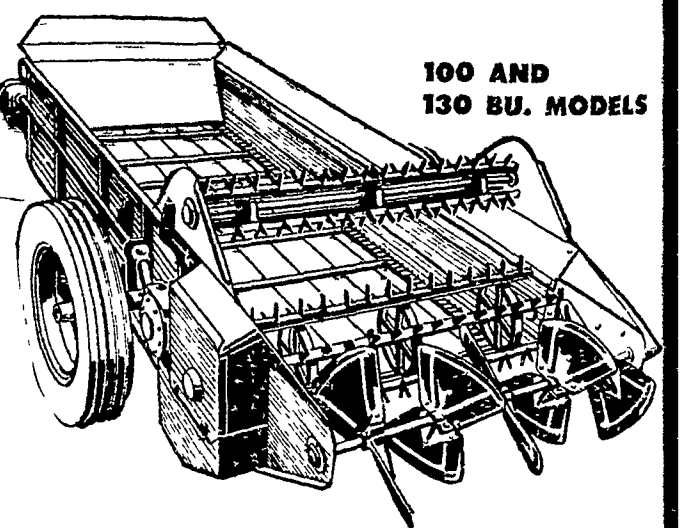
When asked about his plans for the future Dean replied, "Well of course I plan to stay here on the farm. I would like to increase the size of the herd and of course production per animal. I want to develop a better quality forage program and put more soil building and conservation practices on the land. I have a lot of ideas in my mind, but it is sort of hard to put them into words, and I'm going to be pretty busy anyway this year."

As national officer, this young Lancaster county dairyman will visit most of the states in the Union before he passes the gavel on to his successor next fall.

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