

Manheim

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The F.F.A. is 100% American in its ideals and outlook, and has no outside affiliations. There is no secrecy connection with any of its activities. National headquarters of the F.F.A. is located in the Agriculture Education Branch of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

National conventions are held annually in Kansas City. The local Manheim chapter was fortunate in having 3 boys, Dean Hoffer, Kenneth Boose, who is an American farmer degree, and Gerald Greiner who is a state delegate, since he is the State President, along with Joseph McGahan, local advisor, attending the convention this past year.

There are four degrees of active membership a Future Farmer can receive. They are Greenhand, Chapter Farmer, State (Keystone) Farmer and American Farmer.

In order to receive the Greenhand degree a boy must be enrolled in Vocational Agriculture and must have satisfactory plans for programs of supervised farming.

The Chapter Farmer degree is slightly harder to attain. The applicant must have a Greenhand degree and at least one year's instruction in Vocational Agriculture. He must have \$50.00 invested and must be able to lead a group discussion for 15 minutes whenever called upon to do so. The first two degrees are conferred by the local chapter according to the accomplish-

ments of the applicant.

In order to become a State Farmer the applicant must have all previous degrees and must fill out an application form which is analyzed by a board of judges. A maximum of two percent of the membership of a state is eligible for the degree and the applicant must have a total of \$500 invested. The State Farmer is the highest degree a state association may confer.

The American Farmer degree the highest degree in F.F.A., is awarded by a national committee. It is again required that the applicant fill out an application form which is to be analyzed by the judges.

The F.F.A. is self supporting. Operating nationally on membership dues, it has been in good financial shape from the very beginning. Bills are paid promptly and the national treasury main-

tains a safety balance at all times. Many chapters operate thrift banks where systematic and regular saving is encouraged. Chapter income is often supplemented by various well-chosen, fund raising activities. In the Manheim chapter we have a seed campaign which usually is one of our most dependable ways to help out financially.

Our chapter has a fairly active farming program consisting of one acre of wheat two acres of corn, and eight acres of tobacco. In addition to this we mow the Memorial Field in the summer and do any custom work we are asked to do. With this farming program we hope to earn enough money to travel to the west coast and see for ourselves how farming is done there.

The F.F.A. is not all work.

There is some recreation also. Every year all the F.F.A. members in the county meet at the Lampeter Fair and try their skill at judging dairy cattle, beef, swine, and poultry. The Manheim Chapters won six out of the last nine years.

Immediately before opening the business part of a meeting, the president will ask, "Future Farmers, why are we here?" All members reply in unison, "To practice brotherhood, honor rural opportunity and responsibility and to develop those qualities of leadership which a Future Farmer should possess."

We as F.F.A. members sincerely hope we are accomplishing our purposes.

Solanco FFA Has Varied Activities

By: ROSS FERGUSON

Being reporter for the Solanco F.F.A. Chapter, I have been asked to relate to you some of our activities during the past year.

Last June we had eighteen members represent our Chapter at Penn State. Of these members five were in State Band and three in the State Chorus. We also had two members in the Soil Judging Contest in which we won first. Lancaster had the champion softball team of which two members were from Solanco.

In September one of our members showed cattle at the State Junior Dairy Show winning first and fifth places.

This year the County President and Treasurer of the F.F.A. came from our chapter. Two members were also members of the National Band.

We also had members in the local fairs of the county.

On December sixth we held a turkey shoot from which we made about a hundred dollars.

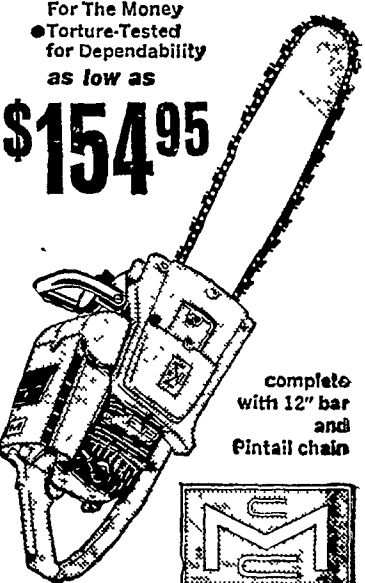
Having just finished distributing our calendars we are starting our annual seed service.

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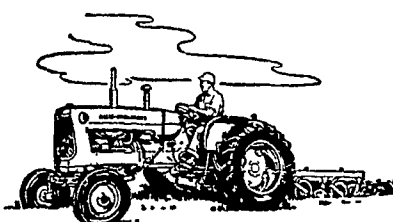
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