



DROUGHT HURT THE CORN CROP, but the ears are filling out and it will mature unless we have an early frost, Grant Miller, teacher of vocational agriculture at Donegal High School, tells a class of junior and senior boys as they inspected a chapter project this week. The FFA chapter grows 12 acres of corn on the halves on the farm of Martin Musser, Mount Joy R1. Left to right are John Hess and Dennis Drager, both of Marietta; David Becker, Mount Joy R2; James Hoffman, Mount Joy R1; Harold Barton, Marietta; Stuart Emenheiser, Mount Joy R1; Miller; Donald Mowrer, Marietta R1; Lee Stauffer, Mount Joy R1, and Donald Drager, Marietta R1. L. F. Photo.

● **Donegal F.F.A.**

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via State University will also be financed from the projects. Each year the chapter awards a \$25 grant in scholarship aid to a graduate planning further education, and this, too, comes from the fund.

But finances are only a part of the value of the projects Miller considers the projects a real teaching tool.

This week, as school began, some of the Pen-Bel 69 tobacco was ready to top. Miller found that most of the boys wanted to top the new variety as high as the older types of tobacco.

The boys found that Pen-Bel 69 topped as high as other tobacco has as high as 20 leaves per stalk. One of the advantages of the new tobacco is that it can be topped lower and still have enough leaves to give the desired weight.

Each committee chairman was responsible for ordering plants, seeing that they were transplanted into the field, cultivated, sprayed and topped at the proper time, and each committee will harvest and strip its own plot.

The corn project, for which the boys supply all labor, in a chapter undertaking. Martin Musser, a member of the Donegal Union School Board, supplies the ground, half the fertilizer, the manure and weed spray materials. Seed for the project was donated by a former chapter member who now works for the Pioneer Seed Corn Company.

Work on the project is done with the chapter's new tractor, purchased last spring with club funds. The chapter also owns a pick-up truck, which the graduates use for the annual western tour. Each year the chapter trades the truck on a new one for \$300.

When the corn is harvested, the club's half share will be stored and offered to members at market price. Thus far a member or a member's father has bought every crop.

Miller believes the projects are an excellent opportunity to teach modern methods and give the boys a chance to try some ideas that might not be accepted at home.

"The projects have done a lot to draw the boys into a close-knit organization by giving them something to work on for the good of the group," he said.

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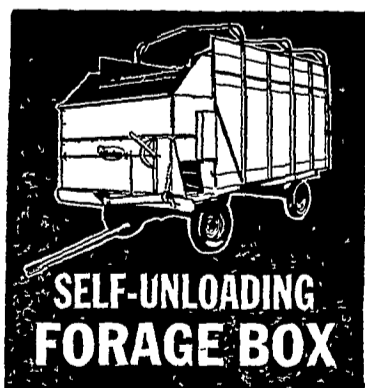
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