

Larry High is Named to Receive FFA American Farmer Degree

A Lancaster youth's farm program, centered around turkeys and steers, has earned him FFA's American Farmer degree.

He is Larry L. High, 2490 Creek Hill Road, Lancaster, a 1968 graduate of Garden Spot High School.

Only one out of every 1,000 FFA members qualify for the American Farmer Degree and Larry is one of only 10 FFA members from throughout Pennsylvania selected for the honor this year.

He also was selected as Pennsylvania's representative for the North Atlantic Regional Star Farmer award.

High recently bought a 100 acre farm at Rheems from Paul Wipple. The farm includes a house, barn and silo.

High plans to erect an 18,000 to 20,000 unit turkey house and move his entire operation to the new farm.

The plans include about 100 to 150 steers a year. This year he grew six acres of tobacco. He will cut back on the tobacco.

But he will make his own feed for his turkeys.

His operation previously has consisted of rented land, including five acres from his father, Harvey L. High, 346 E. Main St., Bareville, 50 acres from Paul Leaman and about 42 acres from John Martin. This year the entire Martin acreage was planted in corn. About 30 acres of corn and 40 beef cattle were carried on the Leaman acreage.

The present turkey house is located on his father's land. He now has 7,000 turkeys slated for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

High's turkey operation is geared toward the New York and Philadelphia markets for the Jewish Kosher trade. This enables him to get one to two cents above market price, one of his keys to success with turkeys.

Earlier this year, he sold 7,000 for the Easter-Mother's Day trade.

He says he gets better returns by dealing with small independent buyers who buy in small lots of 100 to 200 birds, although sometimes he sells as many as 1,000 at a time.

But this type of marketing program places heavy emphasis on having and maintaining markets.

High is a good mechanic and maintenance man and makes and repairs most of his own equipment.

Early this year, he bought a second hand field sprayer for \$75 and restored it. Young High noted that a new one would have cost him about \$350 to \$400.

He considers good banking connections important and deals with the Leola National Bank.

Located in the Conestoga Valley School District which doesn't



Donald Robinson, Garden Spot Young Farmer instructor, helps High make proper adjustments on his spray equipment.

have a vo-ag program, High had to provide his own transportation to participate in the outstanding ag program at Garden Spot High School.

He is married to the former Shirley Stauffer of Lititz.

Active in the Grassland FFA Chapter, he served as sentinel and treasurer and was a member of the state FFA chorus. Exhibiting his livestock and poultry at local and state events, he received the FFA foundation award for outstanding achievement in poultry production.

He also placed first in the state PP&L Farm Electrification and Mechanics Contest for a horse trailer he designed and constructed.

A member of the county 4-H livestock judging team in 1968, he helped that year's team place third in the nation at the Chicago National Exposition.

He is an active member of the Garden Spot Young Farmers, Pennsylvania Turkey Federation and the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.



High discusses his program with Nevin Andes, assistant cashier at the Leola National Bank.



High adjusts some equipment on his 7,000 unit turkey house.



Larry L. High, shown outside his 7,000 unit turkey house, has been named to receive the American Farmer Degree.



The American Farmer Degree winner is assisted by his wife, the former Shirley Stauffer.

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