

Help Us Serve You

If your organization didn't make our farm calendar this week, it's not because we don't like you or your organization.

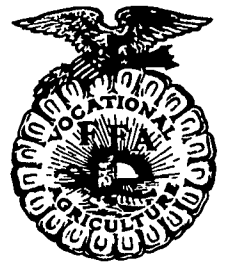
We may have missed it in the rush. Or maybe you forgot to tell us. Either way, we'd like to extend our farm community service to you.

To get on the Farm Calendar, remind us by calling 394-3047 or 626-2191 or by writing to Lancaster Farming, 22 E. Main St., Lititz, Pa. 17543. And help us serve you better.

From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



Editor's Note: This week's article, "Opportunities in Off-Farm Agriculture", is the fourth of many articles in a special column written by various agriculture teachers in our service area. Designed to be of interest to and have educational value for all farm people, the articles offer an opportunity for the farm community to become better acquainted with the teachers and for them to express their own interest in the local agricultural community.

By Larry Garber
Elizabethtown High School
Vocational Ag Teacher

One of the most striking changes in agriculture during the past few years is the substitution of mechanical power for manpower.

Within almost any farm enterprise except tobacco-growing, one person is doing the work today that required three people 20 years ago. Almost every farmer raising crops or livestock for his sole income has expanded his operation two to three times in order to maintain his net income. And he has done this by replacing manpower with machines, which are more efficient and economical.

As a result, the number of farm laborers has decreased, and young men are leaving the farm to gain an income.

Does this mean that a man with a farm background will have to find a job outside his realm of experience and background? Not at all. Many of the skills



developed through farm experience are transferable to other occupations. There are many areas of knowledge and skills developed by farmers needed by industry and business.

First, there are general skills in working with tools and machinery. Second, nearly all farm operations involve a knowledge of nature in the form

of soil, plants and animals. Also, farm experience involves financial management, bookkeeping and recordkeeping. All three of these skills are needed today, and there are plenty of jobs demanding these skills in the inputs and outputs of farm production.

For the young man who is eager to remain in agriculture, but off-farm, there are excellent opportunities for specialized training that will assure him of possibilities of employment and advancement. There are vo-tech programs, trade schools, apprenticeship training, and two-year and four-year college programs in all phases of agriculture. The individual's goal, abilities, and willingness to work should determine which direction to take.

The shifting of farm boys to off-farm jobs need not be alarming. Qualified farm mechanics, suppliers, economists, salesmen, marketers, and advisors with a farm background are a great asset to those remaining in farming. Young men and women should be encouraged to keep farm-related work in mind when planning a career. To alter an old proverb, "The country need not be taken out of the boy."

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