From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



Editor's Note: The article this week was prepared by August Birchler, agriculture department chairman at Penn Manor High School.

The Different Faces of Agriculture

Talk to an urban housewife and ask "What is agriculture?", she'll probably say "Oh, that's a farmer." Ask a rural storekeeper "What's agriculture?" — and he most likely will show the fields around his business and say, "That's agriculture."

But really, there is much more to agriculture than either of the two people stated. Today, there are eight different areas of agriculture being studied in our high schools. Those areas are:

1. Agriculture Production -Examples of this area would be crop production, livestock production, poultry production, and dairy production.

In crop production, programs are designed to encourage students to employ the best management practices available for successful production and marketing of crops such as forages, grains, and pasture as well as specialty crops such as vegetables and fruit.

In livestock production, programs are developed to stimulate students to employ the best management practices available for the efficient production and marketing of swine, beef or sheep.

In poultry production and in dairy production the students are given programs that hopefully will stimulate them to employ the best management practices available for producing and marketing a quality product.

2. Agricultural mechanics — It is in this area that programs are developed to help the students enhance their knowledge and abilities in the fields of agriculturally related equipment and building. This program includes all repair and maintenance of agriculturally related equipment, agricultural construction, concrete work, and skills of wooden construction, along with those skills needed for the environmental control in buildings associated with livestock, crops, processing, and storage.

3. Agricultural Supplies and Services — Programs in this area are basically exploratory - that is, students are exposed to ex-

periences that will develop those occupational competencies needed by the individuals preparing to enter the occupations of sales and services in off-farm agriculture. Places of employment may include: roadside markets, feed and other farm supply business, florist shops, garden centers, and equipment dealers.

4. Agricultural Products - In this area activities are designed to teach basic principles and management decisions involved in the science and technology of processing agriculturally related crop and livestock products

5. Agricultural Resources and Environmental Science - This area can be divided into three areas:

a. Soil, Water, and Air Management — The agricultural students are taught the management practices that will improve the productivity of the soil, prevent erosion, promote the efficient use of air and water so that pollution can be reduced.

b. Outdoor Recreation — The students are made aware of the multiple opportunities that the land has to offer, kinds of recreation generally best suited



August Birchler Vo-Ag Instructor Penn Manor

for family use, or as income producing enterprises vacation cabins, camping areas, picnic groves, fishing, hunting, and guest farms

and Wildlife Fish Management - Programs that will improve the availability of fish and wildlife, such as conservation and improvement of existing land and water habitat, plus the development of new

6. Ornamental Horticulture -This area of agriculture is taught in two of Lancaster County's Vo-Techs, Brownstown and Mount

Subject matter is concerned with the culture of plants used principally for ornamental or esthetic purposes. Experiences may be organized under such titles as floriculture, turf management, greenhouse operation and nursery operation.

7. Forestry — In Lancaster County forestry in the total agricultural program has been decreasing; but, in some areas of Pennsylvania forestry is a major source of income.

Schools teaching forestry provide educational experiences concerned with the multiple use of forest lands, including their management and protection

8. Other Agriculture — It is under this area that programs are developed and experiences offered for programs not listed in other areas, such as:

a. Home improvement.

b. Careers that require college education. Examples would be teacher, vet, agricultural engineer.

Peach Growers Say No To Marketing Program

Pennsylvania peach producers turned down a Peach Marketing Program in a referendum conducted by mail late last month.

The votes were counted Tuesday, June 6, and the final tally was 57-66, with 28 ballots declared spoiled. Tellers were J. Vann Lott, Adams County; Richard S. Frecon, Berks County; and C. Everitt Richardson, York County, all peach producers

Less than half of the eligible peach growers participated in the voting. Eligibility was based on having orchards with at least 500 peach trees.

The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania had requested that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture call for the referendum which would have the producers assessing themselves three cents per hundredweight of their peach

Peach production in the Commonwealth averages about 100 million pounds annually and the marketing program would have yielded about \$30,000 to be administered and spent by the peach growers for the promotion of peaches in the state and for dues to the National Peach Council

A similar program for apple growers has been in operation since 1967 and was reaffirmed in

Real vanilla is derived from an orchid, "vanılla planifolia." The vanilla flavor is locked in a "bean" which develops when the beautiful flower is pollinated. This bean-like fruit undergoes a long curing process before the vanilla flavor is extracted. Most children will agree that the best use of this "exotic" flavor is in quality vanilla ice cream.

It is a fact today that more people are employed in off-farm agriculture than on-farm; yet, it remains that agriculture has but a single meaning to a vast majority of our countrymen -Farming

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