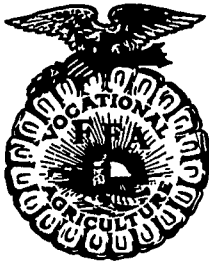


**From Local Ag Teachers:**



# Thoughts in Passing



The article this week was submitted by Charles E. Ackley, Young Farmer advisor in the Ephrata Area School District.

**What is an Adult Farmer Program?**

The Ephrata Area Adult Farmer program provides post-high-school training for farmers and agribusinessmen in Ephrata and Cocalico School Districts.

The educational program is designed for persons of all ages who are no longer a regular high school student and are established or planning to become established in agricultural production or an agricultural business.

The annual program includes a combination of courses and special interest topics, business

meetings and general interest topics, on-farm or business instruction, educational field trips, contests, leadership training experiences, and social and recreational activities that involve part or all of the family.

Courses and special interest topics are presented primarily on Tuesday evenings between the months of October to April with

exceptions of Pennsylvania Farm Show week and Holidays. Courses include all phases of farm management — business, livestock, crops, and so forth. Presentations, resource speakers, films, field trips, workshops, student exercises, and farm visits are utilized to fulfill the various student objectives of the course.

Monthly business meetings of the Ephrata Area Young-Adult Farmers' Association (EAYFA) are held the third Tuesday of each month September through May. The business meeting provides individuals with the opportunity to demonstrate rural leadership abilities as officers, committees and members, while handling a complete business meeting agenda. Agenda includes prayer, secretary and treasury reports, unfinished and new business, committee reports, educational program, and refreshments.

All Tuesday evening meetings are scheduled for two hours in length. They run 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. during the winter months and 8 to 10 p.m. during spring and fall.

The monthly meetings are planned to allow one hour for the business meetings and one hour for the educational program. The educational program consists of a general interest topic related to agriculture and may be presented in a manner similar to courses.

Farm visits or on-farm instruction provides the adult farmer instructor the opportunity to work with individual persons or small groups. The farm visit allows the teacher to supply an effective education immediately upon demand when the farmer has an urgent need to know or desire to learn attitude.

On-farm instruction can be in the form of a survey, course follow-up, annual contest or management program (i.e. corn), new innovations, and problem solving. Farm visits are



**Charles E. Ackley**  
Ephrata Young Farmers Advisor

made during all 12 months of the year, depending upon need and time available.

Farm visits and on-farm instruction includes overall farm business management, records and taxes, business analysis, crop and livestock production and marketing, crop yield checking, corn planter and sprayer calibration, forage testing and feeding programs, insect and weed control, cost analysis, animal health, building and farmstead planning, etc.etc.

Limited time available allows only a minimum of agribusiness courses and visits. Numerous adult farmer courses available are just as applicable or important to agribusinessmen as farmers.

Other educational activities include local and all-day field trips, production contests incorporated with crop management programs, and leadership training through social and recreational activities of the EAYFA.

The objectives of the Ephrata Area adult agriculture program are to provide area farmers and agribusinessmen the opportunity to:

1. Participate in agricultural education activities that meet their needs and appeal to their interests.
2. Demonstrate new and improved agricultural competencies.
3. Develop competent and aggressive rural leadership.

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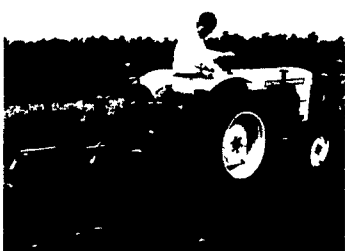
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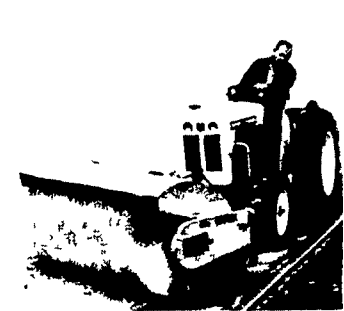
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