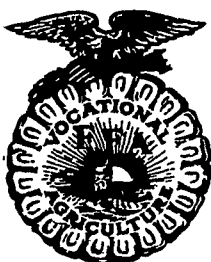


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



This article was prepared by Gerald H. Phillips, teacher of vocational agricultural at Pequea Valley High School.

The Pequea Valley Vocational Agricultural Program

This year the Vocational Agricultural Department at Pequea Valley High School ex-

perienced its sixth teacher in the last six years. Despite the rapid turnover of instructors the program itself still attracts the same caliber of students as are present in more established Departments in this county.

Obviously, this is a rebuilding situation nonetheless, much like an athletic program. My first train of thought was to start the



Gerald H. Phillips

instructional program and gradually build in improvement in the FFA. This year, with the co-operation of the biology department, we have constructed

two polyethylene-plastic greenhouses in which we hope to grow various plants and flowers both instructional, experimental, and perhaps commercial purposes.

We are also planning revisions to our welding area, small gasoline engine unit and hopefully adding an enclosed area adjacent to our shop which could serve as storage area for student projects, the departments' van and other items which take up space in our shop laboratory.

Classroom instruction has become more in-depth than before. Not necessarily more detailed, but students are spending more time on one single unit and tearing that unit apart to get the maximum useful information and a better understanding. We are very fortunate that our school administrators allow us a good deal of freedom in planning instructional field trips for our students and we have taken full use of this opportunity.

Concerning our FFA program, Pequea Valley has once again completed a very successful Holiday citrus fruit sale. We were able to distribute a thousand cases of the various fruit, which placed us number one among county schools. And remember, the enrollment at Pequea Valley

is but 46 students! This shows the type of ambitious, motivated students present in the vo-ag program.

Other Chapter activities include sponsoring a Donkey-Basketball game; Chapter banquet; recreational night, usually once a week; participation in all county and many State FFA functions.

This year, the FFA Chapter is planning an eighth-grade orientation program which will hopefully extend for a number of weeks to introduce our eighth grade students to our vo-ag program at the high school. With 19 freshmen this year, an equal number next year would lift our program enrollment to 65 as we will only be losing two seniors. This orientation program will include slides, speakers and planned student activities as well as a tour of the agriculture department and facilities.

All in all, Pequea Valley's vo-ag department could be described as being on the upswing, with still a way to go. With community interest and support increasing we will hopefully accomplish our goals.

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(Continued From Page 8)

spending—and by setting a statesmanlike example in our recommendations for government spending in the agricultural field.

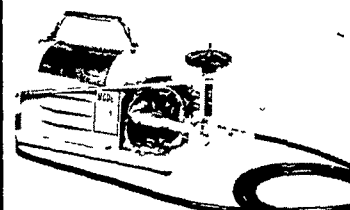
"In addition, we need help from the organizations which speak for other segments of our economy—industry, labor, and consumers—if we are to be effective in our efforts to convince members of the Congress that cuts in federal spending are economically necessary and politically imperative! Some of these groups have yet to make a gesture—feeble or otherwise—in support of fiscal responsibility. They should be pressed into joining in such a campaign in the public interest—or made to be uncomfortable as a consequence of their failure to do so."

Fleming reported that an all-time membership high was attained by the American Farm Bureau Federation in 1972. Total membership at the end of fiscal year 1972 is 2,175,780 families in 49 states and Puerto Rico. (There is no Farm Bureau in Alaska.) This represents a gain of 118,115 member families over 1971, and is the largest annual gain since 1947.

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