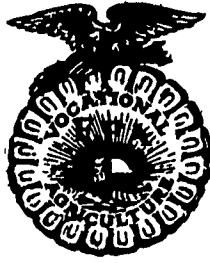


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



The article this week was prepared by Gerald Phillips, teacher of agriculture at Pequea Valley High School.

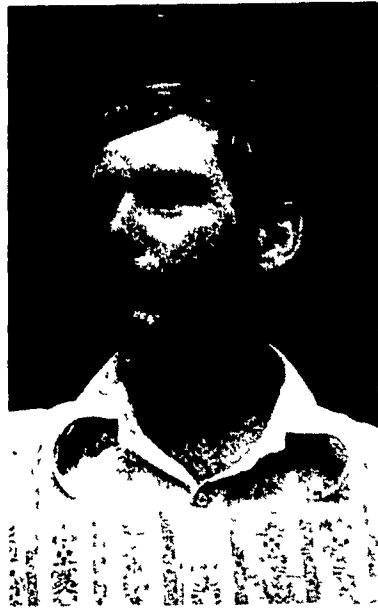
Its Up to Us!!

In the not too distant past, Lancaster County was known throughout the state, if not the entire Eastern United States, as the Garden Spot of Pennsylvania. Farm land stretched out in front of ones eyes in all directions for untold thousands of acres. The farmer in Lancaster County was looked upon with esteem and respect as a sound businessman and good citizen. He was an asset to the community. It probably wasn't too long ago that agriculturally-related businesses were the community and industry. How quickly times change.

Practically each week in any of our local newspapers we read of farms that are bought by business firms, private industries and even wealthy individuals, and are then redeveloped into community living centers, supermarkets, and the most wasteful of all parking lots. Residents in these modern villages then go about their business by raising a big stink about farm odors (no pun intended).

In one recent article a developer referred to chicken coops and pig stys. Now when was the last time any of you saw a "pig sty"? Today's modern agriculture is enabling the efficient farmer to produce and process more meat, milk, vegetables and eggs of higher quality, in less time and in less space. And the odor levels are scarcely higher than before.

Perhaps some of these pollution minded urban dwellers should take a guided tour through some of our industrial plants and take notice of the smell, noise



Gerald Phillips

level, grease and grime and the accident levels and then decide which is a better place to be. If they're so anxious to become country dwellers then they should be capable of putting up with country life. Snowed in roads in the winter, no swimming pools for noisy kids in the summer and "seasonal odors"

Don't misunderstand the content of this article. Agriculture needs industry and vice versa. My point is: why locate industry and model

communities on tracts of land which are best suited and most productively utilized by farming communities? Why build outward instead of upward? Why squander tillable soil when untillable land lies near by with no real productive purpose?

With improved zoning regulations, land prices might not escalate to the point where it becomes impossible to continue to farm and realize a profit. Our land tax structure is now so high that the profits barely outweigh the expenses

If you re-read Clifford Grube's article a short while back, read it again. He spoke of the farming situation in Bucks county whose agricultural tradition is as our own. Now its merely development after development to accommodate communities to Philadelphia. Who's to say that one day Lancaster County will not be development after development to accommodate commuters to Harrisburg?

I spent four years in Bucks county at Delaware Valley College and I can wholeheartedly agree with Cliff. Farm land prices have skyrocketed to over \$2,000 an acre and most of it is being bought by private firms and individuals to be left unworked till greater prices are reached and a profit is attained

with no real work being done.

Our FFA Chapters are proud to be from Lancaster County. We have always represented this area very admirably at our State functions. With more and more farms dropping out of the county scene, this will undoubtedly lower the enrollment in our vocational agricultural programs. If we can't offer a stable present in agriculture to our farm youth, how are we to convince them of a promising future?

Let's keep our farmland farming and not supporting parking lot! Its up to us and only us!!!

Entomology Winners

Only three area 4-H'ers entered the 4-H entomology competition at the Pennsylvania Farm Show this week, and they won two firsts and a second in four classes.

Nancy Mays, 1212 Nissley Road, Lancaster took first prize in the first year 4-H club member category. Her brother, Alan, took second place in the second year category.

First prize in the third year category went to Janet Hutchinson, West Grove, RD2, Chester County.

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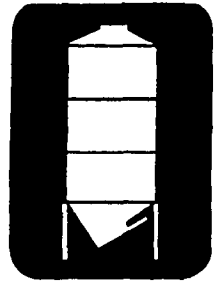
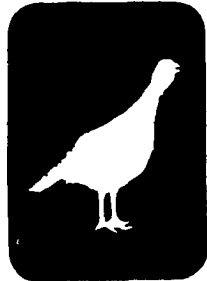
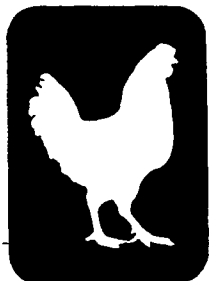
RD1 Bird-in-Hand, Pa.
Gribbons Road

Ph. 656-7013
or
656-7926

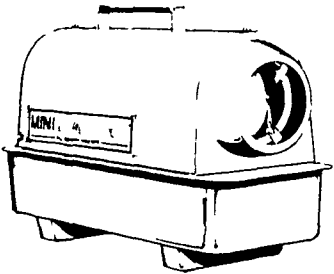
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