Pigs for Profit at Garden Spot

A group of FFA students at Garden Spot High School are getting first hand experience this vear at running a profitable hog operation

Vo-ag teacher Robert Woods' agribusiness and management class are the proud, hard-working owners of 50 feeder pigs Each of the eight youths in the class invested \$20 in the project and they'll split any profits after the hogs are sold

On November 13, the hogs were trucked in from Franklin County to the New Holland R1 farm of John Weaver Weaver is the father of one of the project

members, and is renting feeding facilities to the group The youths estimate they saved about \$100 by purchasing their feeder pigs in Franklin County rather than

The pigs were bought at an average weight of 40 pounds, and the target market weight is 225 pounds apiece The youths expect to sell their hogs around the end of Feburary

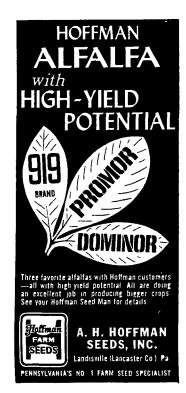
"This kind of program, I think, is one of the best ways for a student to learn," Robert Woods said "They have to cope with buying, selling, rent costs, feeding formulas and practices.

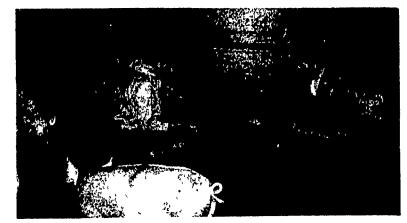
They learned about borrowing money, too, from the Blue Ball National Bank. Naturally, before we started the project, we got the approval of the school district and the school board.'

Woods commented that the students were taking very good care of the hogs. They are clean and thrifty, and he expects they'll make a good profit. Figuring all costs, the project will tet \$140 profit if the hogs sell for 28 cents a pound

Students participating in the project, all seniors, are Ken Burkhart, Ted Good, Lynn Groff, Lamar Long, Greg Martin, Mike Martin, Delmar Weaver and Jim Zımmerman

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Greg Martin, left, and Jim Zimmerman take a close look at the feed used in their vo-ag work experience hog project at Garden Spot High School.

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Ted Good, left, and Lamar Long check the weight of one of the hogs in their senior FFA hog project at Garden Spot High School The two are members of vo-ag teacher Robert Woods' agribusiness and farm management class.

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FEED LETTER

Last week we discovered how much protein was in our hay and silage, so now we are ready to feed our cows.

First off, we must know how much silage each ow gets Well we run the silo unloader for one minute, into a bushel basket, weigh it, and find that each minute it runs, about 60 pounds of silage goes into the bunk feeder. We run the unloader about 15 minutes, so there is about 750 pounds of silage being fed to 40 cows. Now we know that each cow is getting exactly 20 pounds of silage We count 10 bales of hay being fed each day Each bale weighs about 40 pounds, that totals about 400 pounds of hay going to 40 cows So now we know that each cow is eating 10 pounds of hay each day.

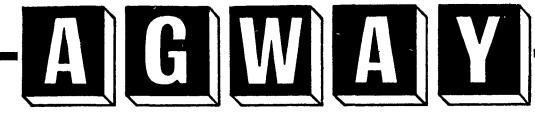
We take the 40 pounds of silage and 10 pounds of hay, apply the figures we got from the lab and now we know exactly how much protein each cow is getting from the roughage.

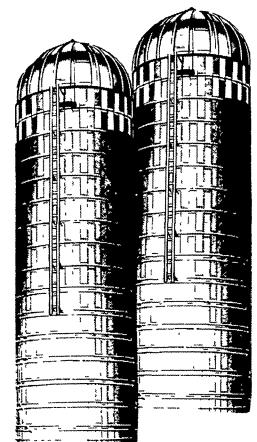
KINDA MAKES A BODY WONDER, DON'T IT?

Ok class, any questions?



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