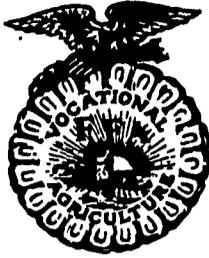


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



The article this week, describing FFA activities and FFA week which is February 17-21, was prepared by Gerald Phillips, vocational agriculture instructor at Pequea Valley High School

**FFA - Uniting Youth
With Opportunity**

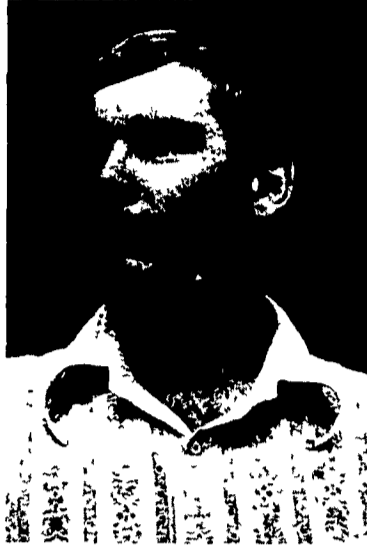
The week of February 19-24 is designated this year as National Future Farmers of America Week. It traditionally falls on the week we celebrate President George Washington's birthday. Washington was the Father of our Country, a great General, a Statesman and Scholar and leader of men with few peers. He possessed and exhibited many of the qualities the FFA tries to instill in its members.

The Future Farmers of America is a National organization reaching from the state of Maine to Hawaii and from Washington to Puerto Rico.

Its membership is increasing each year in every state on all levels, chapter, county, and state. It is one of many organizations which unites youth with opportunity.

"Uniting Youth with Opportunity", this has become somewhat of a slogan for the FFA in the past few years. In no other organization do students have the opportunity to put to direct use the knowledge and experiences from classroom instruction into actual everyday experiences. The FFA has always offered a variety of contests and demonstrations in which students are able to compete and make use of their knowledge.

To cite some of the activities in which Lancaster County FFA members may participate, I'll just mention the following examples. The beginning of the school year brings the annual Livestock Judging Contest held



Gerald Phillips

at one of four county fairs. This past year Solanco sponsored the contest, next year it will be held at Manheim. Later on in the year are the Parliamentary Procedure and Public Speaking Contests, Dairy Products Contests, Land Judging and various Agricultural Mechanics Contests. These contests are also held on a State and National basis for qualifying contestants.

The FFA is concerned with more than just training a student to become proficient in various areas of Agriculture. It builds responsible leaders for our communities. It offers the student to meet and work with students from other areas of the county, state and Nation to broaden personal development and understanding of mankind.

FFA Chapters are traditionally one of the most active organizations in our schools and

communities. Meetings are held monthly to develop new programs of work and put new ideas into action. Examples are the annual Holiday Citrus Fruit Sale, Seed Sales programs, community recreation functions. This year at Pequea Valley we were able to sell and distribute 1,000 crates of oranges and grapefruit, tops in the county, are planning a Donkey basketball game between faculty and Varsity Club versus FFA members, and sponsored a Christmas Tools sale. Of course each chapter has an annual FFA Banquet, the highlight of the year. Here students and parents get together to enjoy a night together and show appreciation to those members who have received various awards and distinctions for their individual efforts.

How are County Chapters planning on celebrating FFA week? Many will have display cases in their school lobbies depicting the chapter activities and officers, some will cooperate with radio station WHEX by putting on one-half minute capsules of their chapter activities. Some may even rent billboard space along main highways to advertise and promote their local chapters. All will be doing something.

Those are two very important words when speaking of the FFA. It **DOES SOMETHING**. It's **ACTIVE**. And it's an opportunity for our youth to develop an appreciation of the feeling of working together to achieve a common goal.

The FFA unites youth with opportunity. What can be more important to this generation and future generations than the chance to work with others, regardless of race, religion or economic background? The FFA is a moving organization. Moving forward toward achieving a harmonious blending of time, talent, and effort in developing the youth of today into the leaders of tomorrow.

Pa. Cattle Herd Down 1 Percent

An estimated 48,000 Pennsylvania farms had 1,745,000 cattle and calves on January 1 according to the Crop Reporting Service. This was 18,000 head and 1 percent less than a year earlier. The inventory value of \$558,400,000 compares with \$502,455,000 a year ago.

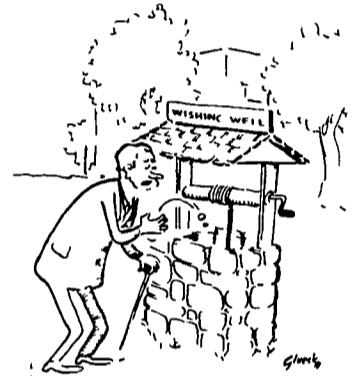
The milk cow inventory on 27,000 farms was 678,000 head, down 2 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers - 500 pounds and over at 205,000 were up 3 percent.

The inventory of 146,000 beef cows was off 3 percent and beef replacement heifers 500 pounds and over at 33,000 was unchanged. Other heifers 500 pounds and over totaling 70,000 were down 4 percent and steers 500 pounds and over at 255,000 were down 5 percent.

The 40,000 bulls equalled last year's inventory. All steers, heifers, and bulls under 500 pounds at 318,000 increased 3 percent.

The 1972 calf crop of 820,000 head was down 1 percent from 1971's crop of 831,000 calves.

My Neighbors



"Heck, I've tried everything else..."

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