

Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster Farming Photo

There was a little confusion, but it didn't take long for 38 visiting 4-H'ers from Michigan to find their Lancaster County

hosts, and to begin a week-long adventure in the Pennsylvania Dutch country.

Week long stay. . .

Mich. 4-H'ers Visiting County

Imagine spending a week 550 miles from home, in unfamiliar surroundings, living with strangers - and enjoying every minute of it!

That's just what happened this week for 38 4-H'ers from three southern Michigan counties, who visited in Lancaster County on a week-long 4-H exchange. And from the comments of visitors and hosts, the week just wasn't long enough!

"Friendship" is the word that best sums up the benefits of the 4-H exchange, according to some of the participants.

Kathy Schneider of Lenawee County said, "We should be here at least two weeks - I don't want to go home."

Nancy Kocher, RD2 Columbia, who is hosting both Kathy and Josie Green, also of Lenawee County, said, "It really is great to be able to go somewhere and stay in somebody's home. You really learn a lot about different customs by living with a family." Nancy seemed to express the feeling of the others when she said, "Within just a few minutes we were the best of friends."

Kathy added, "I didn't know Nancy until Monday, but now I feel like I've known her forever."

Mark Chapman, Monroe County, is a guest of Mike Peifer, RD1, Manheim, co-president of

the 4-H County Council. Mark says there are definite advantages of an exchange program like this, "besides getting away from home and out of work for a week." He said, "It shows how different it can be in different areas."

His host Mike, who visited in Mark's home last summer said, "The exchange is definitely good. I often think about the way they did things when I'm working here."

The visitors, who came from Monroe, Wahtenaw and Lenawee Counties, all agree that Lancaster County crops look a lot better than those at home.

They've had a very wet spring and summer, and Mark said, "There's been some flooding, but mostly it's just raining too much. I left 60 acres of hay at home that

(Continued On Page 19)

Farm Calendar

Saturday, July 14

10:00 a.m. - 1973 Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Show and Sale, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.

3:00 p.m. - Pa. Ayrshire Club field day, Spruce Villa Dairy Farm, Lititz.

Monday, July 16

9:30 a.m. - Holstein Judging School, George Knight's Woodbine farm, Airville, York County

Wednesday, July 18

18-28 - Kimberton Fair, Phoenixville.

Thursday, July 19

9:30 a.m. - Annual Stockholders meeting, Production Credit and Federal Land Bank Assoc. of York, South Mt. Fair Grounds, Arendtsville.

Thome Farm Is Site For Conservation, Plowing Meet

Lancaster County's annual Conservation Field Day and Plowing Contest will be held again this year on the Roger Thome Farm at Elizabethtown RD3. The date has been set for July 24, and activities will start at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a 4-H tractor driving contest, an FFA land-judging contest and a greased pig chase.

Winners in the plowing contest will be eligible to compete at this year's Pennsylvania Ag Progress Days scheduled for August 28-30 at the Milton Hershey School Farms in Hershey. Anyone who'd like to participate in the plowing contest should contact Mrs. Nancy Burkhardt at the Lancaster County Conservation District office in Lancaster's Farm and Home Center. The number is 299-5361.

Swine Industry Leader. . .

Henkel Sees Bright Future for Hogmen

"The hog business is tough now, but it's been tougher and it'll be tough again. The future looks bright, though. Very bright. And there are good years ahead for the pork producer who's willing to hang on," John Henkel told LANCASTER FARMING this week.

Henkel is Pennsylvania's representative to the National Pork Producers Council, and sits on that group's ten-member executive board. He is the only board member from an eastern

state. Periodically, Henkel meets with other hog producers around the country to discuss the multitude of factors which influence the production of meat and breeder swine.

Henkel said the uncertainties of the current situation are bothering hog farmers more than anything else. "Hog numbers just aren't building up the way they were expected to and that's bound to drive up prices," Henkel noted. "Bred gilts and sows are being sent to the packers because it's just getting too expensive to feed them. Some producers are dropping out, but those who stay will be glad they did."

The tickle market has an effect on the Henkel operation, of course, but not as much as it might. Most of Henkel's hogs are sold when they're five to six weeks old to laboratories for experimental work. Five drug company labs now buy their experimental pigs from Henkel. The animals are used in feeding trials and other experimental work.

"Our operation provides an ideal environment for the kind of experimental animals these labs want," said Henkel. "They want disease-free hogs, and that's what we've got. As far as I can tell, ours is the only hog farm of its kind in the state."

Atropic rhinitis and Mycoplasma pneumonia are two chronic, but non-fatal, hog diseases that hold down weight gains, preventing the animals from reaching their genetic capacity and hitting the swine producer where it hurts the most, in the pocketbook.

In 1961, just months after he'd moved onto the 30-acre Strasburg

farm, the Henkel herd was hit with both these diseases.

"The only way to get rid of the diseases is to get rid of the hogs,"



Lancaster Farming Photo

John Henkel is a Lancaster County swine producer who is on the executive board of the National Pork Producers Council. The Council is reportedly the largest commodity organization in the country.

Henkel said. "That's what we did. We depopulated. It took two years to get back up to 60 sows, and I was determined that we weren't ever going to get hit again. And we never have been."

Keeping the herd free of rhinitis and pneumonia meant starting with absolutely clean hogs and imposing strict health rules to keep them that way

"After we discovered the disease problem, we picked 12 of our best sows and bred them. Then when the pigs were born, we stayed right with the sows and took the little pigs right away. We caught each pig in a plastic bag as it was being born. They didn't even touch the floor, much less come in contact with the mother. We

(Continued on Page 18)

Swine Group Plans Tour

The Lancaster County Swine Producers Association will conduct their annual summer tour on Wednesday, July 25.

The tour bus will leave the Lancaster Farm and Home Center at 8:30 a.m. to go to the Smith, Kline and French Research Farm in West Chester, Pa. Elaborate research and experimental facilities at the farm are used to develop veterinary products for large animals.

In the afternoon, the tour will stop at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center in Kennett Square.

There are 40 seats available on the bus, and tour tickets are \$2.50 each. There will be a stop for a picnic lunch, which is not included in the price of the tour. Participants have been advised to pack their own lunches.

To reserve a place on the tour, contact James Horton, Masonic Homes Farm, Elizabethtown. His phone number is 717-367-4428.