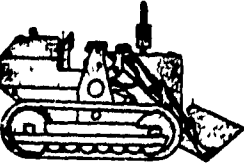



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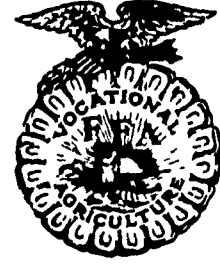
Thoughts
 in Passing

The article this week was prepared by Warren Wagner, teacher of agriculture at Lampeter Strasburg High School.

Many people today still believe that the word "agriculture" means just "farming". The truth of the matter is, though, that they could not be more wrong. It is estimated that of the total United States labor force, 20 to 25 percent of the workers are involved in some form of agriculture occupation including both on-farm and off-farm

workers.

Farming, along with many other occupations, is becoming more specialized. We have more and more farmers just concentrating on one aspect of production, such as the large feedlot operations in the west, or the wheat and corn producers in the mid-west. Because of this more specialized type of farming, farmers have become more dependent upon other people to perform some of the jobs they once did. For example, most farmers do not repair or



Warren C. Wagner

more to it than just "farming." Without any one of the eight groups, the other seven could not survive. It is a lot like a chain - when one link is broken, the chain is useless until the broken link is repaired or replaced. Each one of the eight categories is dependent upon the other in some way.

We need farming just like we need the other seven agricultural areas. Where would the feedlot owner be without the butcher, or the freight hauler, or the supermarket. He would have a lot of meat on the hoof with nothing to do with it. In this world of agriculture, we need each other, so let's work together to meet the needs of the public as one of America's largest industries.

overhaul their own equipment anymore because it is now too complicated and time consuming. If he wants a job like this done, he has to get an agriculture machinery mechanic to do it and pay for his services.

In instructing students in vocational agriculture, we try to break the agricultural occupations down into eight different categories. They include:

1. Agriculture Production. This is the group of people who are actually employed in farming.
 2. Agriculture Supplies. This group of occupations would work with farm supplies such as fertilizers, sprays, and feeds.
 3. Agriculture Mechanics. These people would be concerned with the sale and service of agriculture machinery.
 4. Agriculture Products. This area is concerned with the processing and packing of raw materials from the farm.
 5. Ornamental Horticulture. This area would cover the employees who work in greenhouses, nurseries and garden centers.
 6. Agriculture Resources. This would include people who work with conservation and the improvement of natural areas, such as park workers and soil conservationists.
 7. Forestry. This area deals with the management of trees grown as a crop.
 8. Other Agriculture. This would include Extension personnel and vocational agriculture instructors.
- As you can see, when it really comes to the word "agriculture," there is a lot

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