

Ephrata Young Farmers Tackle Stream Cleanup

A group of about 40 members of the Ephrata Area Young Farmers Association converged on the Glenn Miller farm, Stevens R1, last Saturday morning. They came with chain saws, tractors, buckets, and chains. Some got wet and muddy, a few were covered with sawdust by the end of the morning, and everyone of the farmers there put in a good day's work by the time it was ready to leave.

What were they doing? They were cleaning up a section of the Cocalico Creek where it runs past the Miller

farm. The cleanup operation was actually a joint effort between the Young Farmer group and the Cocalico Watershed Association.

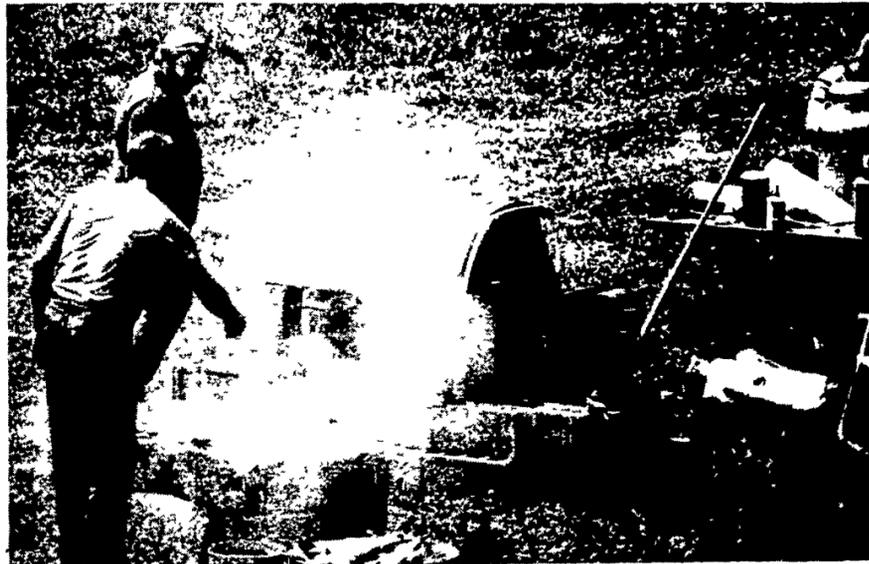
The watershed association has been urging civic and youth groups to adopt a section of the Cocalico, and the Young Farmers picked the stretch that runs from Graybill's Dairy Store in Denver to Route 222. On Saturday they took truckloads of debris from the creek, much of it left over from Agnes. They also cut down dead trees that

were in danger of toppling into the stream.

Marvin Sauder, chairman of the cleanup committee, told Lancaster Farming that the Young Farmers wanted to make the stream cleaner and healthier for wildlife, and they wanted to help preserve it. Their next step, he said, will probably be to install gabions at different points along the stream to prevent erosion of the stream banks and to stop the formation of sand bars in the stream channel. Gabions are wire baskets filled with rocks.



Truckloads of debris like this were wrestled from the Cocalico Creek and cleared from its banks last Saturday at the Glenn Miller Farm, Stevens. The stream cleanup project was a joint effort of the Ephrata Area Young Farmers and the Cocalico Watershed Association.



Although Bill Wingenroth's job of roasting the pig might have been the least backbreaking task during last Saturday's stream cleanup by the

Ephrata Area Young Farmers, it had to qualify as the hottest, too. The pig was donated by Terry Scheetz, a Stevens pork producer.

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