

## FFA Exchange Student Visits Manheim Farm

Summer 1974 has been exciting and challenging for Carel Gysberts. Carel is a 19 year old foreign exchange student from the Netherlands, who is presently living with his American family Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Martin and sons Dave and Dan who is

now living with his wife. Carel has become a working member of the RD1 Manheim dairy farm since his arrival on May 31. Carel has helped with haymaking, baling straw, driving tractor, hauling manure, and general farm labor. One of the biggest projects Carel has helped with was the building of a new 72 stall free stall barn on the Martin farm. While Carel was here he has participated in a weekend retreat of a church youth group, the State FFA Activities Week at Penn State. He was also at the Lancaster County Holstein Field Days, Buck Tractor Pull, and the Pennfield poultry plant. Carel hopes to see more of the area before he leaves in late August.

Carel's home is in Herveld, Netherlands which is in the province of Gelderland. Carel lives with his father Wim and mother Anna. He has two sisters Diny 23 and Nelly 17 and a brother Geutt 20. His home is on a dairy farm with 50 milk cows, 23 heifers, and 30 Friesian calves. In the Netherlands the black and white cows are Friesian; whereas here in America they are called Holstein or Holstein Friesian. The only crop on the 30 hectare (74 acre) farm is hay. During the summer months the first cutting is stored and the cattle graze on the fields the rest of the summer. Hay and pellets are fed to the cattle during the winter along with corn which is bought from a neighboring farm.

When asked why he wanted to come to America Carel said, "I wanted to see how the American farm worked and I wanted to learn English." He also stated that his sister Diny was an exchange student to Israel during April and May of this year and she found it very enjoyable.

To date Carel and the Martin family have found the experience very worthwhile and rewarding. One of the new things which Carel has seen and been impressed by is the bale thrower on local balers. After returning to the Netherlands, Carel hopes to become a salesman of dairy and farm machinery. He plans to do his studying by correspondence.

Carel came to America under the Work Experience Abroad program of the FFA International Activities. This is a program of the FFA



Berks County 4-H members were first place winners in the State Horse Bowl competition held at the Pennsylvania State 4-H Achievement Festival held at the Main Campus of The Pennsylvania State University in University Park, August 5-7. From left to right are: Leticia Bauer, RD4, Reading, Roger Imes, Jr., RD3, Fleetwood, Sandy Bixler, RD1, Mohnton, Shelly Wagner, RD1, Birdsboro, and Leland M. Jinx, Chairman

of Extension youth programs presenting the team with their first place plaque.

The Berks County Horse Bowl team competed with 30 other teams comprised of 120 individuals from all areas of Pennsylvania. The team will go on to further competition at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition held at the Farm Show Arena in Harrisburg, November 9-15, 1974.

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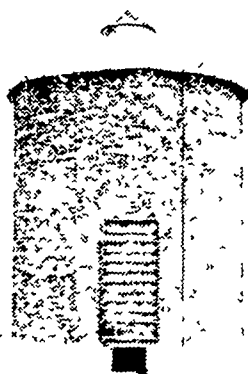
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## Growing Degree Days

In Lancaster, the average temperature for the Week was 69 degrees which is 4 degrees less than the seasonal average.

Growing degree days for crops starting at 40 degrees totaled 3316, or 17 days above the average.

For crops starting at 50 degrees, the days totaled 2032, 7 below the average.

Rainfall for the week was only trace, recorded from April 1, 17.69 inches or .52 inches less than average.

which helps to provide a practical working experience for students in the United States and also sends American FFA members to other countries for the same reasons and to promote international understanding.

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