

# Lancaster Farming

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Students enrolled in the Grassland Environmental FFA have been avid participants in many conservation projects. Philip Oglie, (right)

agriculture instructor at Garden Spot discusses a student's (Mike Hartman) seedling project.

## Environmental FFA Aids Area Conservation Work

by: Melissa Piper

For the past two years, the members of the Grassland Environmental FFA Chapter have been actively participating in many conservation and ecological projects aimed at improving the natural resources and wildlife refuges in the northeastern portion of Lancaster County.

The organization, which is the first in the State and one of the few such groups in the nation, is advised by Phil Oglie and Cheryl Rousseau, agriculture instructors at Garden Spot High School in New Holland.

As the environmental aspect of FFA is somewhat different from the familiar programs involved in actual production and processing, Lancaster Farming asked Oglie to explain how the program had come into existence.

"While working with some 8th grade students," Oglie stated, "I found out that there was a good deal of interest in agriculture but from a different angle than production - more towards ecology and conservation."

"Many of the youngsters although living in a rural setting were living in a rural

non-farm atmosphere either on farms but not farming or the suburbs."

Oglie went on to explain that more leisure time coupled with the increase of farm size but the decrease of actual farms had put much of the population in the rural non-farm class. And while the youngsters living in these conditions were interested in agriculture it was from a different point of view.

"The environmental ag program helps to give

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## Top Conservationist Puts Ag Plans First

by Dick Wanner

"Conservation Districts in Pennsylvania are facing a major decision," Benny Martin told Lancaster Farming last week. "Districts will have to decide how much of their resources they're going to commit to urban work. I personally think they should be spending most of their time on agricultural work."

Martin is Pennsylvania's State Conservationist, and oversees all operations of USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in the Commonwealth. Like all SCS people, Martin is an employee of the federal government. His Harrisburg office is in the Federal Building, across town from

the offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER).

DER is the agency which administers Pennsylvania's environmental laws. All DER people are state employees, the laws they administer are state laws, and the funds they spend come from the state treasury. That agency is charged with insuring that Pennsylvanians of present and future generations have a clean, healthy and safe environment. DER regulations affect just about every municipality, business and farm in the state.

One DER goal is to keep sediment - water borne soil - out of Pennsylvania streams. Their figures indicate that about half the sediment in the state's waterways come from farmlands, while the other half is carried by runoff water from earth moving projects such as road building, housing development, and sewer construction.

In order to clean up the streams, DER has set a number of deadlines for controlling erosion. The deadline that most concerns farmers is the July 1, 1977, deadline for the implementation of conservation plans on their farms. In light of recent

hearings by Rep. Kent Shelhamer's Pennsylvania House Agriculture Committee, that deadline is almost certainly going to be moved back. Nevertheless, DER will still have the legal authority to set erosion control standards, and to decide what date farmers and other landowners must meet those standards.

For the past 40 years, farmers have been turning to SCS for help in controlling erosion. SCS assistance has always been offered on a purely voluntary basis. Farmers have asked for help and they've gotten help. SCS

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## Benefit Auction Slated

The Annual March of Dimes Benefit Auction has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 22 beginning at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Green Dragon Farmers Market and Auction. John E. Martin is Chairman along with Adam H. Zimmerman as co-chairman.

Contributions of New and usable items will be welcomed. Please bring items anytime after Tuesday noon. For further information call 717-733-3511.

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Jeff Roth

## York Hort Club Member - Leader

by: Melissa Piper

When Jeff Roth joined 4-H eight years ago, he was hoping to become an active member of a worthwhile organization and that is exactly what the York County 4-H youth has done.

Jeff, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Roth, Spring Grove R1, has worked diligently in many fields of 4-H making his project and activities records quite outstanding.

As projects, Jeff has tired a little of everything including doing work in beef, entomology, geology, leadership, tractor, automotive and health projects to name just a few.

He is a member of the Thomasville 4-H Community Club, the York 4-H Horticulture club and the York County Council. Jeff has held many offices of leadership including teen leader work and is presently president of the York County 4-H Council.

Jeff has not only been active in project work but has played an outstanding role in 4-H activities. Jeff has been a State Winner in Demonstration contests and has been a Keystone Winner in citizenship and agriculture. He has attended 4-H Leadership Congress, 4-H Leadership school and State 4-H Days.

His local club has awarded him honors in outstanding work in rabbits, baby beef, horticulture and achievement along with being selected the outstanding 4-H boy in 1973.

One of Jeff's favorite projects has been horticulture and the young man has helped to organize the first county wide horticulture club in York County. When asked how he had gotten interested in the project, Jeff explained "I attended a national Junior

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Jeff Roth, Spring Grove R1, has been an active 4-H member for the past eight years. The York County is currently serving as president of the York 4-H Council.

## County Land Judging Event Won by Ephrata

Although it has been said that two heads are better than one, several members of the Cloister FFA proved that five minds working together can be quite successful, as evidenced by the team's victory at the annual County Land Judging contest held April 8.

Ephrata's team effort earned enough points to give them a solid victory. Garden Spot followed in second place with Solanco placing third and Penn Manor fourth. Other county schools participating included Elizabethtown, Pequea Valley and Lampeter-Strasburg.

In individual competition, Kerry Boyd, Ephrata R1, -

Cloister and Elvin Hayard, New Holland R2 - Grassland tied for first place in the competition. The youths will be receiving a plaque from the Lancaster Soil Conservation Service for their efforts.

Other individuals placing in the top six, included: Leslie Groff, 211 S. State St., Ephrata - Cloister; Bobby Patterson Morgantown R1 - Grassland; John Crantz Quarryville - Solanco and Kenneth Wicker Holtwood R2 - Solanco.

The competition was held on the Harlan Hoover farm near Elizabethtown with the Elizabethtown FFA chapter serving as coordinators of the contest.