

For Pequea youth . . .

Variety is the spice of life and income

By MELISSA PIPER
PEQUEA VALLEY —
"Variety is the spice of life" and for Dale Miller, a young FFA'er, it is certainly no exception, especially in project work

While many youths concentrate on one specialized project during their FFA work, Dale has been quite successful in carrying out four projects in different areas of livestock.

For the past three years, the youth, who is a member of the Pequea Valley FFA, has taken beef finishing, dairy heifers, swine fattening and capons.

Dale lives with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn G. Miller, Gap R1, on their 117 acre general farm and has been "doing a little bit" of every kind of farm work for the past several years.

Dale noted that keeping four livestock projects has been a challenge but it has its advantages also.

"It is hard to work in four different areas, but one good aspect is that it allows for income at different times of the year."

"If I only had one project then the money would have to come in at one time, but this way I can put the different incomes into buying

more stock when the opportunity arises"

Dale's father has about 30 milking Holsteins and the youth has helped with that enterprise for several years. This year, Dale chose a dairy heifer as a project and is hoping to increase his interests in the dairy field.

Beef finishing has been another project Dale has become involved in and currently raises several head of Charolais crossbred steers.

"Feeding takes much of the time in beef production," Dale explained.

"We've been giving them a grain ration with hay to start because the beginning rations are really important for growth."

Dale bought the steers as calves and is finishing them out to market weight and will probably sell them at nearby markets.

The third of Dale's four projects is swine fattening and the youth has several head of feeder pigs which he is raising for market.

"I'm trying to get them to market weight (about 225) pounds then will sell them around February or March."

Dale expressed his confidence in the pork industry and noted that "it's been

good so far and I hope it continues."

The youth's swine fattening project has been a good money making enterprise and the youth has returned the profit into buying more livestock and feed.

Also Raises Poultry

Living in the Pequea Valley, noted for its poultry, Dale has also taken capons for this FFA project. Some 200 head come under his care and the FFA'er noted that they require the most work of all his livestock enterprises.

"Capons really take the most work because you have to keep bedding loose and clean."

The birds have given Dale some profit as he sells them live or dressed, but it does take extra time and effort.

The youth has been successful however in his poultry venture and was awarded the outstanding poultry production award for his chapter last spring.

While his project work keeps Dale quite busy, the youth has also taken on much responsibility by being president of the Pequea Valley FFA.

As president, Dale has found the work "most



Even a pet on the neck wouldn't calm down Dale's new dairy heifer. Perhaps it was the camera or all the unwanted noise in the barn which disrupted this heifer's day.

challenging" and explained that it takes time and real concentration. "The most exciting part is trying to organize everything," he stated.

"Making sure parliamentary procedure goes smoothly at every meeting can be quite difficult."

Dale has also served on numerous committees including the leadership committee responsible for much of the program work.

Some of Dale's FFA activities had included being on the FFA dairy judging team and softball team at Penn State. The youth was also chosen as the first place winner in the area tractor driving contest held at Manheim Fair.

At school, Dale is a member of the student council and is active in the Calvary Church Youth Group.

As a junior, Dale hasn't decided on a career, but the youth expressed his interest in remaining in agriculture.

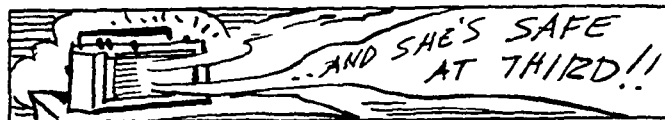
"I think agriculture has a future," the youth noted, "we may see more corporate farms but there will still be place for the individual farmer."

"Corporate farms just won't be able to keep production going in my estimation," the youth stated.

"People will still rely on the small farmer."

Although Dale has had much experience in many fields of livestock production, the youth seems to be leaning toward dairying as a career.

"I like dairying but I guess I'll have to wait and see what another year will bring."



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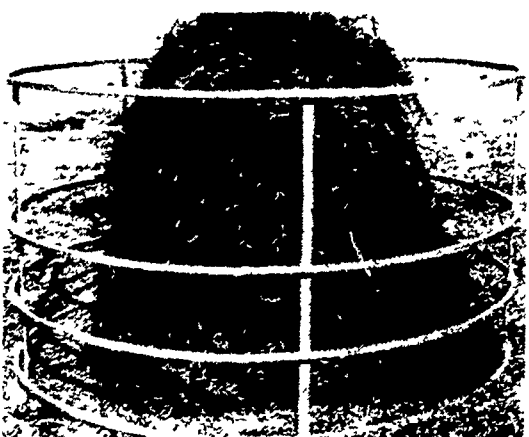
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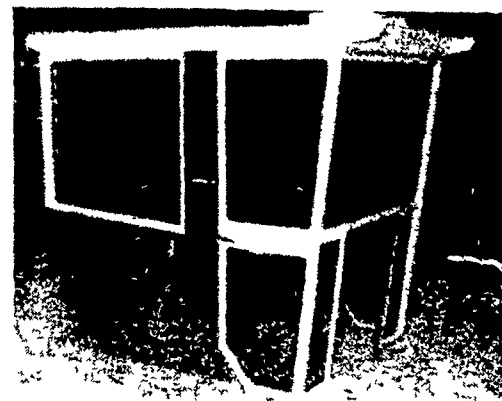


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