

FFA'ers support

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with one having previously served in a leadership capacity.

Consumers Need Educating

Gary Lentz, is an FFA'er who wants to continue in agriculture - especially the dairy enterprise after his graduation. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Lentz, Lebanon R2; the youth has been helping his brother on their dairy farm for the past four years.

Expressing an optimistic view on the future of dairying, Gary noted that "next year looks pretty good."

"Prices seem to be going up and costs are beginning to drop, so hopefully it will be a bit easier," the youth stated.

Gary's brother is currently milking 85 head of Holsteins and along with helping around the farm, Gary also has 13 heifers of his own.

Although his optimism on dairying goes a long way, Gary also feels that there are problems in the industry. "Consumers really need to be educated more," Gary related.

"We've got to make the consumer want to drink milk, too many just don't realize it is good."

"Consumers don't know the whole story on milk production and that's where we could do more work."

Besides being oriented to actual dairy work, Gary has also been an award winning dairy judge. In 1974 he was the top FFA judge at the State Activities Week and has placed high in the ranks in succeeding years.

Gary also raises field corn and alfalfa for his dairy projects and has shown his heifers at the Lebanon Fair and the All American Dairy Show.

Hopes to Work on Farm

Francis Bragg is the treasurer of the Northern Lebanon FFA and won her Keystone Degree for her work in dairying and participating in a juggling operation on the Maple Lane Farm. Francis has the distinction of being the first girl to ever win the Keystone degree from the school and is also one of the few young ladies in the state to have had the degree awarded.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bragg, Jonestown R2, Francis works three times a week for one half a day, at her uncle's milk juggling operation and retail store.

"During the day we bottle milk and I help with that and the many chores connected with it," Francis noted.

"In the evenings I work in the store and help out in the retail business."

While working with the juggling operation has given the young lady a good background in the dairy enterprise, she has also been around the operation of milking the 55 head of Jerseys on the farm.

Being a part of such work in the dairy field, Francis has her own opinions on a farming and agriculture in general.

"Agriculture seems to be

growing smaller, but I hope it doesn't continue."

"It seems as if some farmers just don't want the work connected with agriculture," Francis quipped. "Maybe that's where our mistake has been."

While problems in the agricultural world bother Francis, the FFA'er would like to stay with farming and especially the dairy enterprise.

Along with her work, Francis is a member of the school newspaper staff and has been judging dairy cattle on the local FFA team.

In June, the young lady will be traveling to Switzerland as an FFA work exchange member and will be assisting on a dairy farm.

Sells Grains

The vice president of the FFA and also a Keystone Winner, Daniel Bausher, currently raises veal calves but also sells his hay and crops to his father - a Lebanon County dairyman.

Dan's father, Donald Bausher, Jonestown R1, has about 25 head of Holsteins that he is currently milking and depends on his hay, wheat and corn from his son.

Dan spends much of his time working with his 15 acres of field crops and knows how much effort is involved in such a program. Perhaps it is for this reason that the youth has his opinions of grain exports to other nations.

"Exporting is good for the economy but I think there are problems that go along with it."

"I'd like to see us getting back something good for all our grain exports."

Dan has been a member of the chapter's parliamentary procedure team which has won first place on the state level for two consecutive years.

"Getting a farm is hard."

For Chester Michael, Jr., getting into farming hasn't been the easiest job. The youth, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Michael, Fredericksburg R1, didn't always live on a farm and knows how difficult it is to get started and even harder to continue.

"It's hard to get into farming without putting out a lot of capital for equipment, housing and livestock," the youth explained.

"Many city people don't realize that a productive farm needs good stock and machinery plus adequate acreage."

The youth noted his interest in getting into farming but realizes that he'll have to gain some capital first.

"I want to farm with my father but I'll have to work first for a while so that I'll have the money I need."

"If I had to buy a farm now on my own it would be hopeless just to think of it."

Chester has also taken dairy heifers for projects and has combined the dairy enterprise with raising corn, oats, fattening beef and hogs and also raising capons.

As reporter for the FFA, Chester serves in the leadership capacity and has been on the land judging



The five FFA members of Northern Lebanon Co. who will be receiving Keystone degrees are (from

left) Gary Lentz, Dan Bausher, Dennis Wenger, Chester Michael, Jr. and Francis Bragg.

contest as well as winning awards for his corn and crops.

Farmers Should Get Better Prices

While the dairy farmers are now getting a "little better deal," there are still people taking an unfair cut out of the farmers return according to Dennis Wenger, FFA president.

Dennis, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wenger, Jonestown R2, has many thoughts on agriculture and is concerned for the dairy farmer and his profits. One particular problem which Dennis sees as "wrong" is the failure to inspect imported milk.

"We as dairy farmers have to meet rigid inspections but the imported milk is never even inspected and sells for a lower price."

"It just isn't fair for us to have to comply but not the imports."

The young man also frowns on the export of grain with little coming in return. "As long as we get nothing in return for our grain it

doesn't seem like a very good idea," the FFA'er noted.

"We should be watching ourselves in that respect." When speaking about dairying, Dennis talks with authority and knowledge for his main project for the past four years has been raising heifers.

The youth has shown his dairy animals at the Lebanon Fair, the Southeast Regional FFA show, the Junior Dairy Show and the All American Dairy Show.

Dennis has served as the president of the county FFA also and has been a member of the parliamentary procedure team and the dairy judging team.

Students such as these have worked long hours to make their dairy and farming operations a success and will no doubt be the foundation of agriculture in the years to come.

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