



Mark Geib uses his off hours from school working as a truck driver on his father's farm. The youth will be working full time following his graduation this spring.

Ag program

[Continued from Page 13] Partnership with Gerald's older brother and rents two farms other than their own.

In conjunction with his work at home, Gerald has also spent much of his time attending meetings around the area. He attended the pesticide management course in the county and is preparing to go to the swine seminar at Penn State next month.

Activities and work seem like quite a busy schedule for the youth but he has also maintained high honors in school and has served the FFA assistant treasurer.

Gerald's mother noted that the program had "benefitted all concerned." "It has meant a lot of responsibility and work for Gerald, but it has also been a good learning experience."

Gerald has recommended that his younger brother David take the program in his senior year, as it will make for "good teamwork," according to the youth.

Although the final judgements on the program will come after the first full year is completed, Erway

and Spangler have been quite pleased with the response of ag cooperative education at Manheim.

"We certainly have happier students for the most part," Spangler commented, "the attendance has actually increased for those students involved and the interest has been running high."

Any new educational methods has its flaws and Erway confessed that the coop program had seemed a little "overwhelming" at first. "The students seemed somewhat frightened at the aspect of doing so much work, at the outside involvement for foreign to them, but they have adjusted well."

According to the advisor, developing the entire program was the hardest part of the whole educational attempt. "Fitting the pieces together wasn't easy and it took time, but it has been successful this far and we're hoping for more participation next year."

At least here in Pennsylvania, vocational agriculture education has



Gerald Keller, a senior and member of the co-op education program, works on his father's farm near Lititz. The youth along with his brother have a swine breeding operation.

taken a turn toward the future. Young people who were once confined to a physical building for an entire day are now able to learn first hand about agriculture production and business and are also contributing to community interest on a first hand basis.

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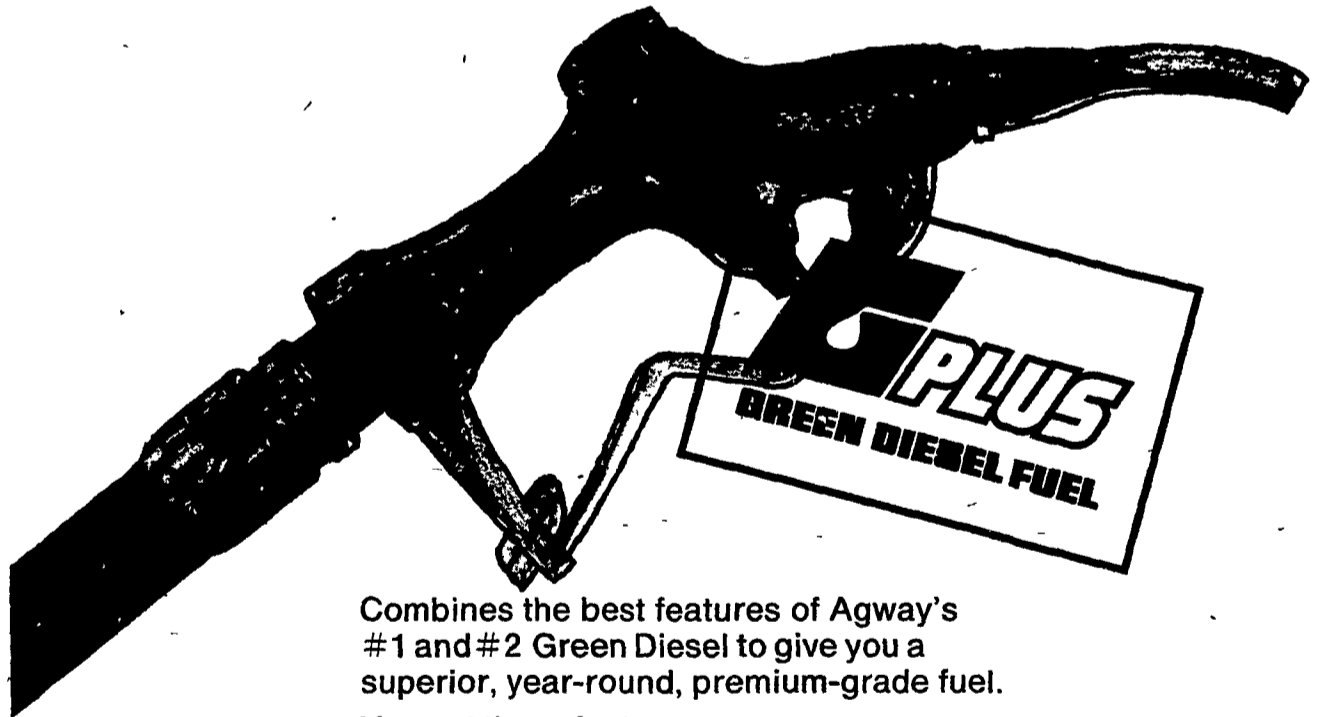


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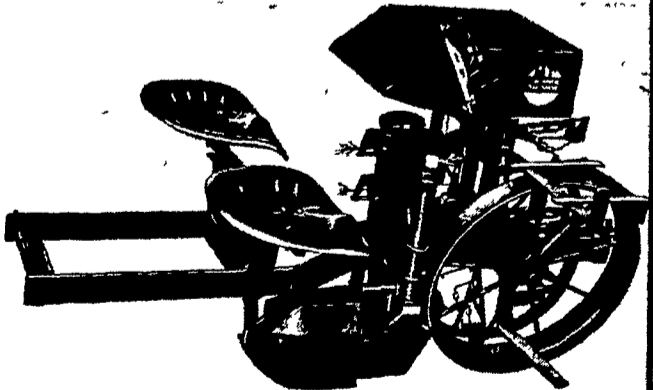
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