

Seniors

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spent many hours working in a nearby canning factory to buy a used tractor and some small pieces of machinery.

While the youth admits that maintenance costs of the machinery and production costs have been hard to deal with, he'd rather be farming than anything else.

"I've tried working other jobs but it just isn't like farming, I enjoy agriculture the most and want to stay with it if I can."

Miller sells his grain to Hostetters in York County and says that his corn yields return the biggest portion of profit.

As a senior, Miller has already become experienced in crop production winning a state proficiency award for work in that agricultural enterprise but the youth still notes that without the help of a neighbor who rented him land and helped with the machinery, he would not be able to begin farming on his own.

Miller has served his local FFA chapter as chaplain, treasurer and secretary along with being the County Star Farmer. His grain exhibits and swine projects have won numerous awards at the York Interstate Fair and his FFA record books have been top in the local and state contests. But FFA success does not always mean an easy entrance into the field of farming and Miller knows it won't be easy.

"I'm optimistic about farming, cause people have to eat," explains a fellow

student, Claude Warner. With an easy smile and sharpness in character, Warner looks as if he could run any type of business with a high degree of success but the senior has chosen to stick with agri-business hoping that someday he'll have his own farm.

Warner, a Lineboro, Md., resident, has been working for Charles Folk, a feed and grain dealer for three years. Working both in the fields and in the mill, Warner has learned a good deal about agriculture and sees a future in the enterprise.

"I'd like to have my own farm but you just can't walk into a bank at 17-years old and expect them to dish out \$200,000 for land and equipment," Warner explained. "And who wants to have all that debt stretching ahead of them at such an early age?"

The senior's observations concerning capital are well understood by many young people engaged in farming. To start out is just too difficult according to many youths and it means finding a way to work around the money situation. For Warner it has meant leaving his home farm, which his father and brother operate in partnership and working in agribusiness until he can save the capital necessary to buy land.

"My family told me to be smart and go to college to be a veterinarian but I like farming and going to school just isn't for me," the youth noted. "If it means working up from the bottom I guess I'll just have to do it that way."

A state proficiency winner in the FFA ag sales and service category, Warner has been the sentennial and secretary of the

local chapter and has had several state winning record books for agribusiness. The youth has shown the grand champion market hog at the York Fair two years running and is a Keystone Degree winner.

"There will come a day when people will need more food and perhaps all the parking lots and housing developments will be torn up for farm land - someone will have to do the farming so I hope there will be a place for me," the youth stated.

For Dave Lees, a Brodbeck's youth, starting out in agriculture will mean a split session between field work and working at a food processing plant.

The student's parents farm 37 acres and rent 60 more for producing small grain. Lees has taken swine breeding, veal production, corn and rabbit production for FFA projects but realizes that his enterprises will not totally support him. As with his friends, Lees is planning to work at the factory until he can gain enough money to start out on his own.

"I want to get into farming but hope that in the future the individual will have more say in marketing prices and imports," the senior noted. "Farmers need to cooperate for better prices without having government plan all the export marketing structures."

Serving as chaplain, vice-president and president of the local FFA, Lees has a good working knowledge of agriculture and hopes that a future in farming will be available for him - when he can afford it.

For Peter Slusser, Jr., of Hanover R3, farming means continuing his poultry and hog enterprises in conjunction with his parents' operation. The senior has both a broiler and layer operation along with tending beef, swine and gardens.

Slusser has seen the problems in being totally independent in farming especially since his father raises poultry without contracting from a feed firm.

Slusser realizes that independent farming is not easy but is hoping to continue the trend when he graduates. The senior will also be supplementing his farming with taking the two year agri-business course at the York Campus of Penn State.

Currently the president of the FFA, Slusser has been the Regional Star Agribusinessman and has won numerous awards for record book projects as well as grain exhibits at the York Fair.

Raising hogs has been his most profitable enterprise but the youth admits that the price may not always be as good as it was last spring. "I'm hoping that the future of agriculture will be bright and I'm planning to pursue it the best I can."

A fifth senior not present for the interview is Ned Myers, who has also been actively pursuing a career in agribusiness. Working for a number of ag firms in the area, the youth was selected as the second place state winner in ag processing.

Each of the five Southwestern York seniors has an excellent background in agriculture and has won the Keystone Farming Degree significant of his achievement in farming and business. And although most probably qualified for a number of different vocations, each of them has decided to stay with farming. They will not have any easy road to travel since financing for land, machinery and livestock will not drop into their laps, but the seniors have decided that even if it means working in industry until money can accrue, farming will be a way of life for them.

Camp directory available

LANCASTER - A Directory of 1976 Summer Camps serving Lancaster County is now available at the Lancaster Information Center, 630 Janet Avenue. Information on 14 day camps and 13 resident camps providing regular and specialized camping opportunities is included. According to Mrs. Jean J. Wedge, program director, this information is most frequently requested by agencies serving youth who

can benefit from enriching camping experiences. The directories can be obtained without charge from Lancaster Information Center (LINC), a public service program of the Easter Seal Society.

Mrs. Wedge also announced that the first revision to the new Directory of Community Services has been mailed to individual and agency purchasers. The directory, the first to be published in loose-leaf

binder form for easy update, was distributed in January of this year.

The current revision includes 135 changes and information on 6 new organizations. LINC plans to

issue revisions periodically in order to provide all directory users with current information. A limited number of copies of the directory are still available at the LINC office for \$3.00.

What's New

SORE MOUTH VACCINE AVAILABLE FOR SHEEP INDUSTRY

In response to industry concern that sore-mouth vaccine is no longer available to domestic sheep producers, a representative of the Bayvet Division of Cutter Labs has notified the industry that they are still producing OVINE-

ECTHYMA VACCINE for sore mouth in sheep.

In view of the fact that no other major supplier produces the vaccine, Bayvet will increase their output this year to ensure adequate supplies. The vaccine is available in 100 dose bottles only. For more information, contact your veterinarian or nearest Bayvet products distributor.

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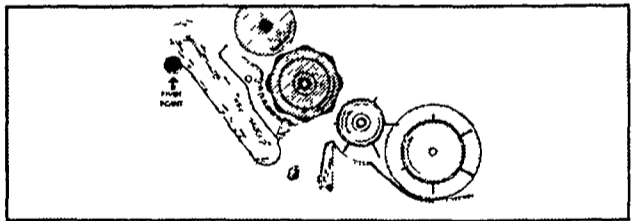
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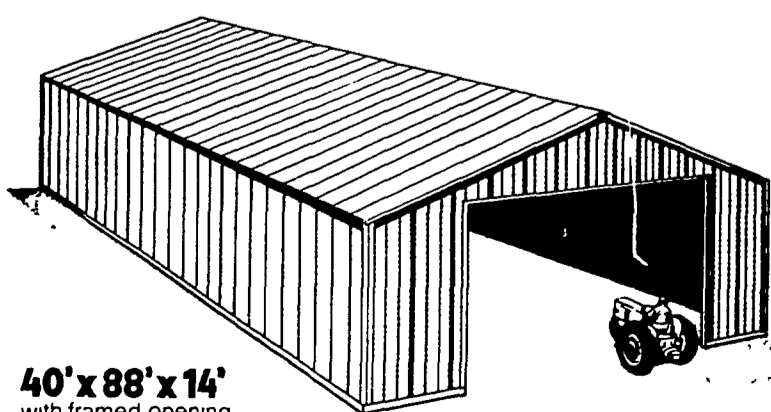
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