

# From Flushing to Lenhartsville — a city girl comes to the farm

By JUDY MITCHELL  
Berks Co. Reporter  
LENHARTSVILLE - As the numbers of farmers who produce the food for our continuously growing populations diminish, concern about young people leaving the farms each year to seek outside employment increases. It now appears, however, that at least a small percentage of city

youth may be moving in to help fill the gap. Over a year ago, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Haas of Lenhartsville saw an article in an agricultural publication about a New York City school that offers a program for a select group of high school students interested in a career in agriculture. One requirement for completing

the course was that students spend at least two summers working on a farm. The idea appealed to them, Haas said because here were kids who really wanted to get into the dust and dirt and find out what farming was really like.

The Haas's subsequently contacted the John Bowne High School in Flushing New York, but learned that all students had already been placed for the summer of '75. Although they have three grown children of their own (Paul, age 23, Emily 22, and Cathy 18) still living and helping in the operation of the family farm, the idea of having an ag student from a city school spend a summer

with them stuck, and this year the Haas's again made application to John Bowne and were given the name of Linda Guagliano.

Linda and her mother visited the Haas farm during the Easter vacation, and according to Haas, after only a few hours they seemed like old friends. It was agreed that Linda would spend the summer living and working with the Haas family. (According to the school regulations, the host family pays a first year ag student \$25 and a second year student \$35 for work performed.)

Seventeen-year-old Linda, who appeared as comfortable in her bib overalls

as any Pennsylvania farm girl might, explained that she had entered the ag program at John Bowne in her sophomore year. Linda belongs to what might be considered an elite group at her school, Haas pointed out, because, unlike here in Pennsylvania, students wishing to enroll in John Bowne's ag program are tested and personally interviewed prior to acceptance. Once in the program, the ag students

must maintain a high grade average or, according to Linda, "you're out."


Linda is one of about 60 ag students entering their senior year at Queens County High School, which numbers approximately 200 ag students in all.

Linda's summer at the Haas's completes the course requirement for two summers of work experience, preceded by one summer at the school's land lab. The

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Linda's chores include feeding the calves.



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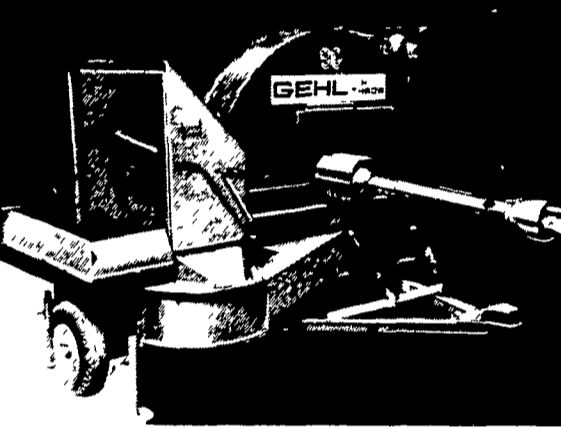
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