

College is

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the description of the farm work reads as follows: "FARM - 40 students - Gardening; grain and hay farming; beef and hog feeding, butchering, and related work; machinery maintenance, repair, painting, and operation; fence building and repair;

tree planting; and harvesting." But, surprisingly enough, with all that work to be done the farm crew is very popular. "There's a waiting list to get on the farm," Ernst Laursen, farm manager, was quoted as saying in another publication about the college.

The reason for the surprise at a waiting list for this farm is that of all the 41 areas students can choose to work in, farming hires the most people. And, as was stated, there is a crew of 40 students working under the farm manager. This number compares to an average of nine for all other 40 areas. Not only this, but farming is hard work compared to some of the other easy positions such as dorm counsellor or kitchen help.

"But it's great," declares John. "On the farm there are just so many things to do, and it's a great way to let out tension. Instead of going to a pool hall, you can go to work and earn your room and board."

That's not a statement that will be heard every day, but John means it. He's an interested young adult who knows the value of work and the value of farming.

"I went down there intending to learn more about farming and to learn a little on the side," he says in his clear, definitive manner.

What he has come up with is a practical philosophy on farming. Instead of sitting in a classroom, learning facts and figures about the trade, he has developed his own attitude on how to be a successful farmer.

"Actually, the only way to be a good farmer is to try new methods and watch for the results, modifying things if necessary," he explains.

John certainly is getting practical experience this summer in testing out his philosophy since he is one of seven or eight students who have stayed at Warren Wilson to work on the farm. When a 40 member crew is reduced to seven or eight, each one of that small number gets a real taste for what it's like to really farm.

"So far we haven't done anything special," John says. "In the beginning of the summer we planted the corn, and then we mowed the hay and took care of the tomatoes."

So, actually, even though John is three states south of Pennsylvania, the crops aren't much different from those here.

"The climate in that particular part of North Carolina is pretty much like here," explains John. "About the only difference is that the temperature is a little milder in the winter and in the summer."

And, the area is quite a bit more mountainous since the



John Shenk looks at a sunflower in his mother's garden at Lititz R3 to compare the difference between this one and those in the garden at Warren Wilson College.

college is in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains.

"Sometimes when I'm up there with the mower it gets a little scary," John reflects. As one would expect, the bottomland is in corn while the hills are in pasture.

With all this mowing, planting tomatoes, making hay, etc., where do all the fruits of the labor go, if not back into the college?

"Usually we'll slaughter about 20 steers, package the meat, and sell it to the faculty," says John. The college also has a produce stand for the garden vegetables, and most of the corn which is harvested is put back into feed for the animals on the farm.

The machinery that is used is mostly old equipment which was either donated to the college or gotten as army surplus. Most of the time the

students do the major repair work in the machine shop, but if the job gets too big, they hire a professional.

One lucky break came for Warren Wilson when a Lancaster minister helped to raise money for farm equipment. As a result, the college received a disc, a rake, a manure spreader, a mower, and a baler.

"These are the kinds of things that keep us going," says John in earnest.

Timbering is also part of the farm labor. Lumber which is cut is used for constructing new buildings, putting up fences, and similar activities. A small amount also goes to pulpwood.

So, in actuality, the farm is not out to make a profit or even sustain the college as a self-sufficient entity. It is primarily set up to be a learning experience for all involved.

John will attest to its success in this area.

"I really like the place a lot," he claims. "It teaches you farming, but more than that, it teaches you organization and how to work with people and understand them. And, the atmosphere and philosophy really round you out as a total person."

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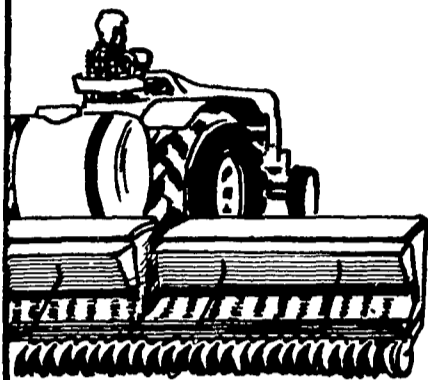
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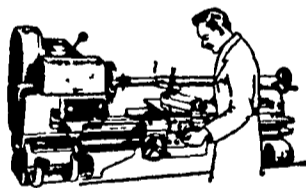
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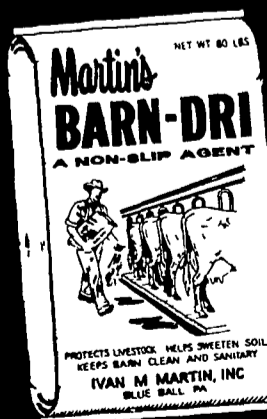


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