

**From Local Ag Teachers:**



**Thoughts  
in Passing**



By **ROBERT S. WOODS**  
Garden Spot High School  
New Holland, Pa.

This year, as the month of November rolls around, many FFA chapters across the state of Pennsylvania and the nation begin final preparation before attending the national Future Farmer of America Convention which is held annually in Kansas City, Missouri.

The National FFA Association, which consists of approximately 500,000 members, holds the National Convention to honor members across America as well as conduct important legislation affecting the organization.

During this week of important meetings and activity, many contests of national scope are held to select the most outstanding FFA students and judges in the FFA.

One of these contests, the National Poultry Contest, is also held during this week. The National Poultry Contest has approximately 50 state teams competing for the national title. The Pennsylvania state poultry team has three members, two of which are from Garden Spot High School, New Holland, Pa. The three students representing Pennsylvania are Dennis Moose from Mercer High School, Mercer, Pa.; Harry Boley, Garden Spot High School, New Holland, Pa.; and Kenneth Fox, Garden Spot High School, New Holland, Pa. These three students placed top in the State Poultry Contest which

was held this past summer at the Penn State University.

This year the National Poultry contest will include the following areas to be judged: egg grading, interior and exterior quality and egg breakouts; dressed ready to cook broilers; dressed turkeys; identification of poultry diseases and parasites; and evaluation of live laying hens and pullets. After judging the laying hens, oral reasons must be presented to a contest judge which will justify the student's placings.

In the egg grading portion of the contest, students must be able to candle eggs to determine any one of five different qualities ranging from AA quality to inedible. Exterior shell quality must be determined by looking for shell irregularities, dirt, or cracks. The final portion of egg grading consists of breaking the eggs out to determine quality which is indicated by the thickness of the white and the appearance of the yolk.

The dressed bird areas are more complicated. This year judges must evaluate dressed broilers and turkeys to determine various quality grades. These grades run from A grade to no-grade or reject. Requirements such as fleshing, discoloration, torn skin, broken bones, and feathering are used to place quality grades in this class.

The disease and parasite identification area of the contest requires that the students be able to identify approximately 50 to 60 different diseases which affect



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the poultry industry. The last area of judging involves the selection and culling of five laying hens and pullets. After placing these birds, oral reasons are given to justify the placings of the birds. Birds are placed on size, quality, pigmentation of comb and wattles, and degree of bleaching in the legs and beak.

This year the National Poultry contest was made possible by the support of one of Lancaster County's fine industries. Victor F. Weaver, Poultry, Inc. of New Holland is co-sponsoring the contest. Weaver's is making possible the travel, contest expense, awards, and awards breakfast for the members competing in the National Poultry Judging contest.

**'CB' replacing dinner bell**

TROY, Mich. - The farm family cowbell that calls all hands to dinner may soon be a thing of the past if two-way citizens band radio sales to

farm equipment owners continue to grow.

Lloyd D. Robertson, parts sales manager for Ford Motor Company's North American Tractor and Implement Operations, said that the best available industry figures indicate that one in six U.S. farm families now owns one or more CB radio units.

"Farmers, particularly those with larger acreage, now are discovering the efficiencies in having base-station sets in their homes and receiver-sender units in tractors, combines, other field machinery and trucks," Robertson said.

"These CBs do a lot more than announce that dinner is on the table. They can be used to order additional fuel, seed and fertilizer for machines in the field, call for trucks to remove crop loads, or let a farm wife know that the crews will be in in 30 minutes - even if dinner is not on the table. Actually, the list of added efficiencies a farm CB radio system creates is practically endless," Robertson said.

**Girl has  
top steer**

TRENTON, N.J. - A Monmouth County, N.J. girl recently showed the top steer at the New Jersey Baby Beef Show, held here at the State Fairgrounds last month.

Christine Ondrosh exhibited her Hereford steer to grand championship honors and later sold the animal for \$1.60 per pound. The reserve banner went to Clay Clement of Gloucester County. His entry was a Simmental which commanded a price of \$1.10 per pound.

A total of 120 head were shown in the show, with 29 of the animals coming from Hunterdon County. That worked out to 14.8 tons of beef from one county, according to a spokesman reporting on the event.

The over-all average of the sale calculated out to 62 cent per pound.



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