



Larry Weaver, Outstanding Young Farmer Award winner for Pennsylvania, poses with his wife, Carol Ann, and 4-year old daughter, Jodie.

Weaver

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essential as anything. Debt is a necessary part of life.

Asked what the key to success in agriculture might be, the bearded young man answered: "You've got to be an efficient operator - be a little better than the average guy."

He believes there's a good future in farming, but adds that: "A guy just about has to put everything he has into it - you've got to be born into it and be really dedicated. you have to like long hours and hard work - there are no quick schemes to get rich."

Speaking about young men who want to get started in farming in particular, Weaver commented: "The young farmer has a rough road to hoe - inflated machinery costs, etc., and unless he receives a real break from someone, he'll have a tough time getting started."

The outstanding young farmer received his start in the Fall of 1966 when he took over his father's farm. He is a 1963 graduate of Garden Spot High School and credits his keen and sustained agricultural interests to his vo-ag instructor, Dr. Robert Herr.

Prior to entering farming,

Weaver worked for 3½ years for either his father or a New Holland agribusiness.

The young man presently farms 195 tillable acres, of which 150 are in corn with the remainder split up for alfalfa, small grains and tobacco. He owns one farm himself and rents a second property from his father, Lester.

Two hundred head of steers, 100 sows, and 500-600 pigs for fattening complete the livestock inventory on the Weaver farms. In addition, he markets between 800-900 head of feeder pigs per year.

Weaver says he was born and raised on a farm and has always liked it. Asked if he ever had any regrets about his decision to go into agriculture, the award recipient grinned broadly and referred to experiences which frustrate or annoy any farmer. Still grinning, but giving a more serious answer, Weaver expressed considerable satisfaction with his chosen profession.

Weaver's farm is very close to housing areas, and is, in fact, adjacent to a trailer park. This has created some awkward situations at times, but the young farmer has been able to adapt to that too. Some examples follow.

One evening he was out plowing after dark. A neigh-

bor called to complain. Another time he finished his field work at three o'clock in the afternoon and went to the barn to do some other chores. A neighbor called that evening to protest about his not having plowed the field he had just finished picking corn from. The neighbor was concerned about corn husks blowing over his yard. These are occasional problems which catch Weaver from both sides.

Even so, Weaver looks on the brighter side of things. He believes the public is becoming more aware of the value of agricultural land and expresses some confidence in the ability of the zoning boards to make the right decisions. He is also very conservation minded and strives to make the area around him be pleasant to all who live there.

The Jaycee Outstanding Young Farmer Award is given on the basis of 1. rate of financial growth in the farm business, 2. conservation practices, and 3. community activities and leadership.

Weaver and his wife, the former Carol Ann Hess of Strasburg, keep extensive records on their farming operation and use the accounting services of the Pennsylvania Farmers

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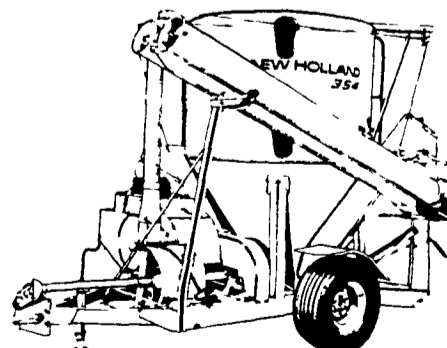
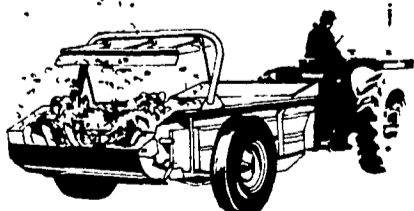
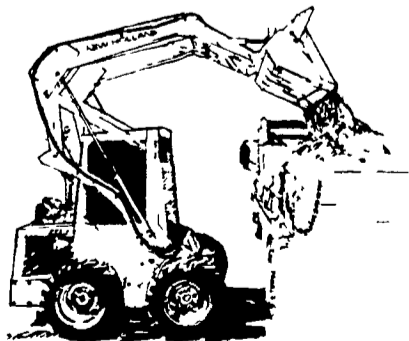
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