## Polish agriculture student visiting Lehigh County

#### **By LAUREL SCHAEFFER** Staff Correspondent

MACUNGIE, - "I don't know how to form a better relationship with people than by cooperating with them the same as with neighbors," Donald Lichtenwalner says. "The more you cooperate, the closer you come to understanding each other."

Lichtenwalner was expressing his feelings about a foreign exchange program in which he and his family are participating for the

second year. "It is a great program," the Macungie, R2 farmer continued, "where the people of other countries can find out the way we do things in America."

Lichtenwalner 1s hosting a Polish exchange trainee for a year through the National 4-H Program in the United States and the Polish Society of Agricultural Engineers and Union Farm Youth in Poland. This year his guest 18 Mateusz (Matthew) Kudelski of Lublin. Matthew is an agricultural engineer

who had worked in the administrative office of a large state farm comprised of 15 separate operations. The total land area involved is approximately 150,000 acres.

Matthew is one of 107 people participating in the program who came from Poland on March 23. A total of Five of them are staying in Pennsylvania. Matthew was positioned on the Lichtenwalner's farm because of his interest in a general farming operation. Lichtenwalner operates a

grain farm of about 1050 acres and raises poultry and 32 acres of potatoes. Besides himself he has four other full time men working with the operation.

Having had the experience of hosting a Polish exchange trainee the previous year, Mr. and Mrs. Lichtenwalner helped their new guest explain some of the differences he has noticed and experienced so far. Poland, which is a country about the size of New Mexico, grows more potatoes than the entire United States. Corn 15 grown almost entirely for use in animal feed and is usually harvested green; very little is harvested as

southern Poland since the season in the northern part of the country is too short. Rape is grown widely throughout the country and is used for feed and oil.

One aspect the Lichtenwalners have learned about Poland is that they do not have the housing problems farmers of America have. Almost all of the building in Poland is done in and around the cities and is kept concentrated in certain areas. There aren't developments "eating" at the farmland as they are doing here.

Even though Matthew works on a state farm, most of the agriculture of Poland

grain. It is only grown in is operated by private farmers, he says. Approximately 80 per cent of the farms are private, but they are rather small compared to farms in the United States. They average only between 15 to 30 acres in size, the largest being about 100 acres. These private farms comprise about 60 per cent of the total farmland while the 20 or so state farms make up the rest.

The people employed on the state farms live in centralized apartment-type housing which is provided rent-free, says Matthew. In addition, they are given <sup>1/2</sup>-

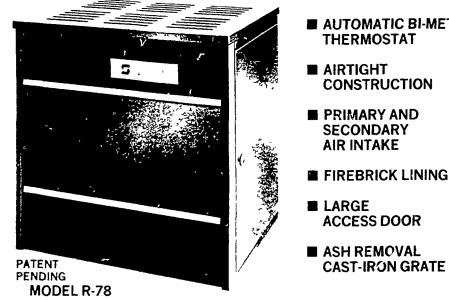
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Although Poland is only about the size of New Mexico, the eastern European nation produces more potatoes than all of the United States combined. Mateusz Kupelski tells Lehigh County grain, poultry, and potato farmer Donald Lichtenwalner, left. Kupelski (on tractor) is a Polish exchange trainee who is presently living and working with the Lichtenwalner family.

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