

Farm tour fun even though horse got away

By JOANNE SPAHR
WILLOW STREET — Although their horse took off for the hills, and they had to saddle up one of their FFA members in its place, the Garden Spot Future Farmers of America Chapter staged a fairly successful farm tour on Monday and

Tuesday of this week. Of course, their patrons didn't much care whether it was a horse or an FFA member who wore the saddle, just as long as they got a ride. The "patrons" were first graders from the Strasburg Elementary School, Willow Street Elementary School,

and Lampeter Elementary. All told, about 170 six-year-olds tramped over the farm of Kenneth B. Garber, Willow Street R2, and, from the looks of things, really enjoyed themselves. The tour was a project scheduled under the Food for America program, a

national FFA program. It has been a long-standing tradition at Lampeter Strasburg High School, that, in order to orient the elementary students to agriculture, the first graders are taken on a farm tour every year.

The tour was set up in 10 stations, each with a different animal or concept of farming for the children to learn about. A bell rung every seven to 10 minutes and the children moved from area to area.

definitely felt the program was a beneficial one. "They've come through with a lot of new ideas," she commented. "Most of my students don't live on farms, and the animals make quite an impression on them." In order to insure that the students grasp the concepts, she said she would follow up the visit to the farm with a lesson on what the children saw.



Jerry Myer, president of the Garden Spot Future Farmers of America Chapter at Lampeter Strasburg High School, shows first graders a bolus gun.

This year approximately 20 FFA students were involved in planning and organizing the tour. For the most part, the FFA'ers were in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades.

Gerald Garber, on whose farm the tour took place, is a freshman this year.

The Garbers provided the farm, which included the rabbits, goats, dairy animals, and beef animals for the tour, and the students imported the other livestock they wanted the children to experience.

Station one consisted of the shop and machinery tools; station two, the cows and milkhouse; station three, the silo room and calves; station four, the upstairs of the barn which involved the hay and straw; station five, the machinery shed; station six, the garden; station seven, a pig; station eight, the steer and bulls (including the medicine); station nine, horse, goats, chickens; and station 10, rabbits and sheep.

Mrs. Nellie Grubb, first grade teacher from Lampeter Elementary School,

For the FFA members, as well, the tour was a rewarding experience.

"You get a feeling that maybe this is the only time they've ever been on a farm, and they're learning," stated an FFA'er. "They come up with really funny questions."

From the way it looked, it was a good learning experience for all involved.

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