

Restoration of pond begun by Garden Spot FFA

By KENDACE BORRY
LAMPETER — For their BOAC (Building Our American Communities) project this year, the Garden Spot FFA is tackling a problem that has been steadily worsening for quite a while.

Their project is the Lampeter Pond, which they summed up as in "bad condition".

According to members of the BOAC committee, including Jerry Myer, chapter president, Don Shaeffer, chairman, Clayton L. Shenk, student advisor, and James Meck, chapter reporter, there are several reasons for the pond's deterioration.

The banks are caving in, they reported. Muskrats are working in the pond, further damaging it.

Originally thought to be about 12½ feet deep, the pond now has about two feet of water in it. Some of the water has drained out of holes made by the muskrats and the FFA'ers estimated that about four feet of sediment has settled in the pond.

There has also been some waste materials dumped in the pond from facilities nearby. At one time there were fish in the pond but today none can be found.

Another aspect of the pond, which is located directly behind the West Lampeter Fairgrounds, is that it is located next to farmland. In the past, its overflow has drained into alfalfa fields, causing further erosion.

According to the BOAC committee, two years ago the West Lampeter Jaycees tried to do something about the pond, but failed to get the support that they needed. Now the Garden Spot FFA is accepting the challenge.

The project was officially started about a month ago.

The first step of the committee was to go to a West Lampeter Township

supervisor meeting. There they explained what they wanted to do, and outlined their problems.

The youths believe that the basic issue will be funding for the project. They have the manpower to do the work—but money is needed.

They have two routes which they can follow in their outlined plan of the project.

The first plan is that they simply work on the pond and restore it to its former state.

The second and more ambitious idea, is that the area is turned into a park, with landscaping, fertilization of the grounds, and the addition of picnic tables.

If they simply restore the pond, a rough estimate of the cost would be about \$4000. If they decide to try and make a park out of the area, they estimate the cost closer to \$8000 or \$9000.

And the raising of that money will be the most difficult part of the work, the FFA'ers believe.

After attending the supervisor meeting, they started visiting different service organizations in the area.

They travelled to the Willow Street Sertoma Club, telling them their basic plans and goals. They went to the West Lampeter Jaycees and did the same. In the future, they plan to visit more organizations in the area.

To help in the estimate of the work, they had Scott Eberly, representing the Soil Conservation Service, in Lancaster, to look at the pond site.

Eberly suggested that the pond be returned to a depth of eight to ten feet deep, which would make it an ideal pond for bluegills. He told the FFA'ers that they need to determine an exact plan outlining their goals for the project. The care of the pond, he noted, would be continual, if it was not to deteriorate again.



In charge of the plans for the FFA project are, seated, Don Shaeffer, chairman, Lampeter; Clayton Shenk, student advisor, Lancaster; and

Jerry Myer, chapter president. Standing are Bruce Richards, FFA advisor, and James Meck, Willow Street.

The youths estimate that the entire project will take them about two to four years to complete. Right now, they stated they're handling complications and technicalities which have arisen, determining exact

plans and starting to raise funds. They hope to get some of the actual work started by the Spring of 1979.

They are thinking of stocking the pond, which is fed by underground springs,

with bluegills and bass. The pond, they hope, could be opened to the public for fishing and ice skating, as well as other water activities.

But right now what they

are seeking is support for their project, and they urge anyone with suggestions or aid to call them at Garden Spot High School, 717-464-3311. Advisor for the group is Bruce Richards.

HARRISBURG - Red meat production in Pennsylvania totaled 91.3 million pounds in October, down four per cent from a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Cattle slaughter at 77,600 head was down 19 per cent from October 1977. Calf slaughter at 30,800 head was down nine per cent, hog slaughter at 266,800 head was up nine per cent, and sheep and lamb slaughter at 11,500 head was up almost

three per cent from a year ago.

United States commercial meat production during October totaled 3.35 billion

pounds, virtually the same as a year ago. Cattle slaughter was down four per cent, calf slaughter down 30

per cent, hog slaughter up one per cent, and sheep and lamb slaughter down 13 per cent from October 1977

Pa. red meat production down

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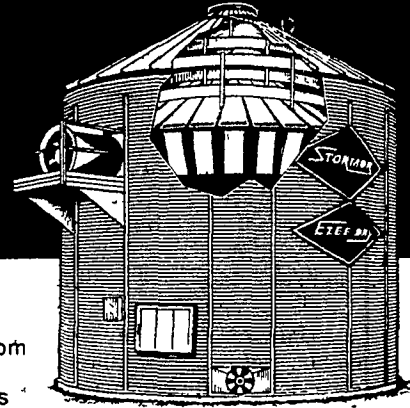
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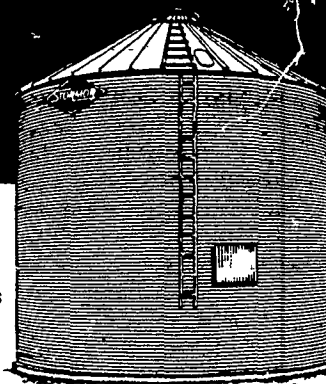
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