

Cloister members show consistent strength

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent
EPHRATA — For the past

six years, the Cloister School has received the Future Farmers of America national chapter award, an award presented to just two

or three chapters in each state. The gold emblem is representative of the best FFA has to offer, and it symbolizes the excellence Cloister provides in its program.

Cloister chapter is one of the four largest chapters in Lancaster County, with 140 total members, including graduates. The chapter consistently has winners in county, regional and state contests, and has been known to have large delegations participate in and come home winners in national contests.

Lew Ayers, one of four official FFA advisors and actual organizer of the program, says simply, "It speaks well for our activities. We have enough activities that members can choose any avenue they're interested in. Last year we had five members on national judging teams. We have a state officer and an American Farmer."

He added, FFA offers

students the opportunity to be involved. Here our students show a lot of livestock, mostly pigs and dairy cattle."

Last year four Cloister graduates went directly into farming and 12 are involved in ag-related jobs. One graduate went to college and two have non-farm jobs. Overall, Ayers says, about

one fourth of their students are from non-farm areas.

The chapter is active in FFA-sponsored projects, but it supports its members by giving annually: one Holstein calf, two purebred Duroc gilts, and a pen of three lambs, and two pens of market hogs. Interested students must fill out applications and go through

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Marvin Fox, left, and Mike Pfautz go over project books, using the adding machine for accuracy. Marvin is in his third year as a Cloister FFA Chapter member and Mike is in his second year.



Learning to operate a table saw is part of the work in the vo-ag course at Ephrata High School. Here Marvin Fox is at the machine. He is in his third year as a member of Cloister FFA.

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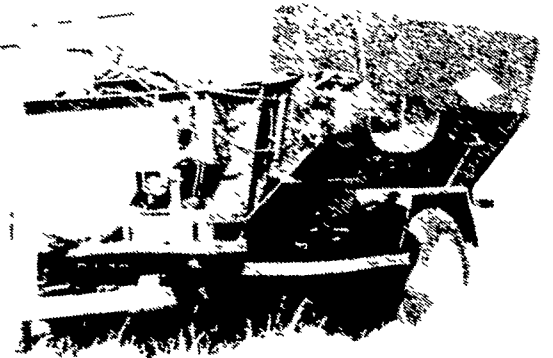
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