Regional Star Farmer plans dairy future

BY RUTH ANN BENEDICT member in the Blue Ridge Staff Correspondent

WAYNESBORO - Jesse Reichard probably did not know when he bought his first Holstein heifer back in 1966 that in 14 years he would own a herd of 18 registered Holsteins, including two

Now, at 17, he owns a herd Regional Star Farmer for Agriculture Production at past years. the 51st FFA Convention in January. Jesse is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Reichard, Pump House Rd., Waynesboro, and is a senior at the Waynesboro Senior High School.

farming with his father on a production. 140 acre farm, Jesse's milking cows can be found on his brother Edgar's farm located not far from the home farm.

But cows are not his only

Chapter at the Waynesboro School. He is the president of the Blue Ridge FFA Chapter and served as treasurer in 1978. In 1979 he was treasurer of the county FFA

group. He has received his Star Green Hand, Chapter Star Farmer, County Star Farof 18 and was named mer and has won a Production Credit Award on the South Central District in his project books over the

In the four years Jesse has been involved in FFA at Waynesboro, he has increased his projects from just five his first year to nine enterprises this year, while widening his exposure to all Currently engaged in areas of agriculture

> Currently Jesse's FFA enterprises include dairy herd, swine marketing, broilers, alfalfa, clover hay, wheat, oats, rye and corn.

This past growing season he harvested 46 acres of Jesse is a very active corn, six acres of oats, 24

acres of clover, five acres of rye, 16 acres of alfalfa, and 10 acres of wheat for a total of 107 acres.

During the past two years Jesse has purchased a stacker and a tractor, enabling him to do some custom stacking for farmers in the surrounding area. This past fall he made some 215 stacks not including those on the home farm.

When asked about the future, this prospective young farmer talks in phrases of "I would like to see".

Jesse faces reality and recognizes the fact that it is hard to get started in the dairy business in this day and age. This fact alone stops many young people, but Jesse wants to be in the dairy industry even if he is not directly working and owning a dairy farm.

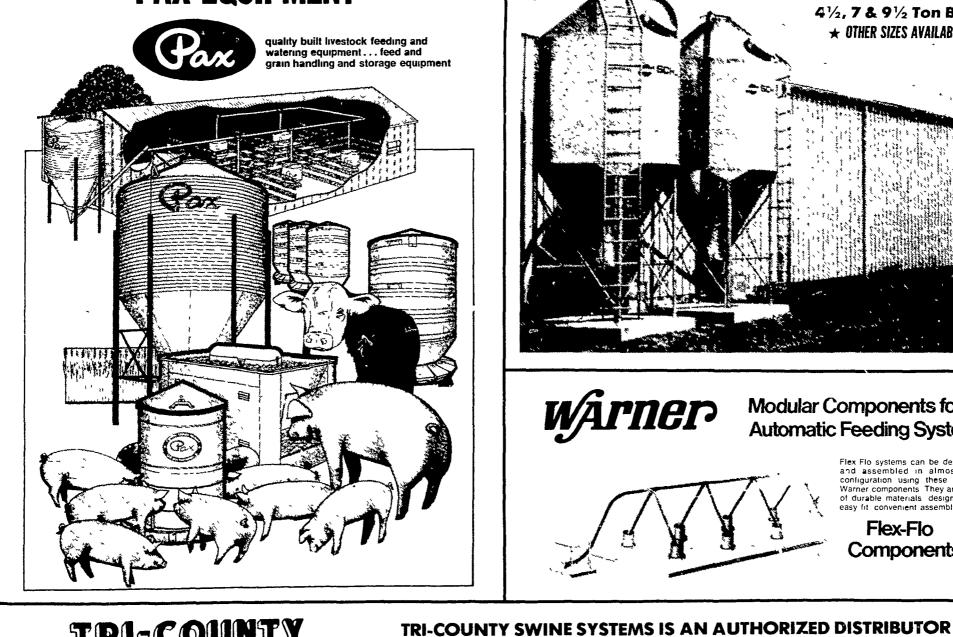
He has plans and dreams which include building a

(Turn to Page B6)



Much of Jesse's success can be attributed to his keeping good records, staying on top of things and in staying active in a wide range of activities other than FFA.

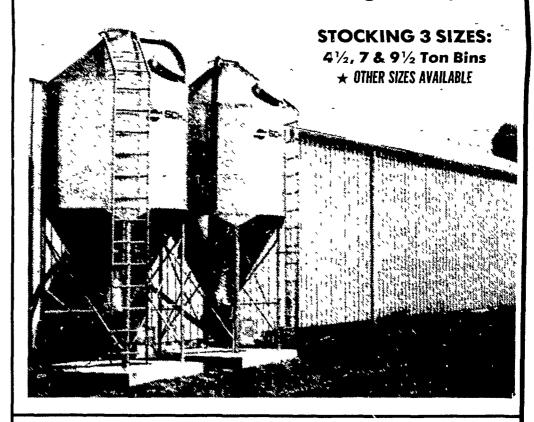
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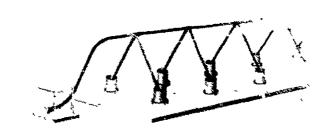
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