

Pequea Valley FFA is 'flying high'

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

WHITE HORSE— There may be better pheasant hunting in at least two spots in Lancaster County thanks to the FFA chapter at Pequea Valley High School.

Several chapter members and advisor Clair Witwer gathered early one crisp morning last week to release about three dozen birds which the chapter hatched and raised as a BOAC project.

Four dozen pheasant eggs were purchased by the chapter from Case Farm Hatchery at Brodbeck's in York County. The non-fertile and chick mortality rate ended up to be about 25 percent.

But 35 of the four-month-old

birds had their initial solo flights on Wednesday morning as the chapter members launched them beneath sunny, blue skies.

The birds—initially confused by their large, open surroundings—scattered in many directions and in many different ways.

Some of them headed for the tall corn.

Others really tried their new wings and sailed off to land in an alfalfa field.

A few played road runner and just scampered down lanes and off into brush.

And one could have used the help of an idle air traffic controller because it made a wide circle only



Members of Pheasant Committee of Pequea Valley FFA load birds into crate for transport to stocking sites. From the left are Bruce Wanner, advisor, Clair Witwer, Jeff Feister, Brian McCauley and Eric Wanner.



AND AWAY THEY GO. Pheasants are Bruce Wanner, Jeff Feister and Brian McCauley launched on their solo flights by Pequea Valley FFA members, from the left, Eric Wanner,

Churchtown Road, northeast of White Horse, and the remainder on the James C. Landis farm on Rohrer's Mill Road, southeast of Strasburg.

The eggs were hatched in an incubator about the end of April in the high school's ag department. When the birds became bigger, they were taken to the Ken Skiles farm at R2 Narvon to be raised in a former farrowing house.

A portion of the birds were released on the Skiles farm along

heard early in the mornings near their homes. Since a combination of cock birds and hens were released, it is hoped that Mother Nature will take over now and help replenish the pheasant population.

The Pheasant Committee of the FFA Chapter decided on the BOAC project (Beautify Our American Communities) because some of the members are hunters and lamented the disappearance of the pheasant clucks they had once

heard early in the mornings near their homes.

Since a combination of cock birds and hens were released, it is hoped that Mother Nature will take over now and help replenish the pheasant population.

Taking part in Wednesday's release were chapter members Eric and Bruce Wanner, Brian McCauley, Jeff Feister and Bob Buehl.

Norwegian lass serves as 'honorary dairy queen'

KUTZTOWN— It didn't take long for a visiting Norwegian lass, Anne Ragnhild Haug, to get intimately introduced to the agriculture of Lancaster County and surrounding areas.

Only in this country for a couple of weeks as an exchange student at Garden Spot High School, New Holland, for the next year, Anne was right in the midst of the 26th annual Southeastern Regional FFA District Dairy Show at Kutztown last week.

In fact, you might say she served as a visiting honorary "dairy queen" helping to congratulate the

various chapter winners and hand out the trophies, rosettes and ribbons.

Hailing from the town of Porsgrunn (population 35,000), which is about 200 miles south of Oslo, Anne had her first closeup encounter with dairy animals of all breeds and area youthful breeders and exhibitors.

"I'm enjoying it very much," she remarked in excellent English as she prepared to move back into the Holstein ring to hand out another trophy.

"Also, I like your area very much," she added.

"The people have been very friendly. I like the little hills and green trees you have around here. We have much bigger mountains back home."

While Anne doesn't come from a farming background, there is an agricultural link in her family. Her father is an engineer with Norway's largest company, a fertilizer manufacturer. He designs the various buildings and plants involved in the company's manufacturing process.

Thus far, Anna has visited Victor F. Weaver, Inc. and Sperry New Holland and, of course, Park City.

She hopes to do a little traveling elsewhere and particularly wants to visit Washington, D.C.

She is staying with the John Mask family in New Holland. She will return home next July for her last year in high school and then continue her studies to become a physical therapist.



Steve Smith, of Ephrata's Cloister FFA Chapter, receives showmanship trophy from Anna Haug, visiting Norwegian student, who served as "honorary dairy queen" at Southeastern District FFA Show.



Norwegian visitors, Anne Ragnhild Haug, flashes her best Scandinavian smile for camera.



Pollock in WEA program

WASHINGTON, N.J.— Joni Pollock of Route 57, Washington, N.J. has been accepted to participate in the FFA WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD (WEA) program this fall. The program is an international educational exchange activity of the Future Farmers of America and rural youth organizations in their countries.

A recent announcement from the National FFA Center, Alexandria, Virginia, noted that Joni will be placed for horticultural work experience for 3 months this fall near Rotterdam in the Netherlands. This is one of more than 25 countries participating in the exchange program.

By living and working with a family, Joni says that she will have

the opportunity to learn about horticulture and their way of life. The Netherlands is a world leader in intensive agriculture and horticulture.

Joni is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Pollock of Washington. Her vocational agriculture teacher at Warren Hills Regional High School is Jay Rupell.