



Working on tractor engine in Pequea Valley High School vo-ag shop are Darryl Reiter, left, and Don Hughes, under the watchful eye of instructor Clair Witwer, right.

Pequea Valley FFA'ers illustrate learning by doing

KINZERS — "Learning by doing" — the basic philosophy of the vocational agriculture-FFA educational program — was clearly in evidence this week at Pequea Valley High School during National FFA Week.

Observation of both classroom and project activities of just a few members of the Pequea Valley Chapter illustrates the practical application of skills and training that symbolizes the programs of the nearly 8,500 chapters throughout the nation.

In the vo-ag shop of Pequea Valley High School, which is nestled in the rolling farmland of east-central Lancaster County, senior students are busily engaged in tractor mechanics training.

Efforts are being concentrated on two tractors to get them ready for the soon-to-come spring planting season.

In addition to the repair of tractors still being used, the students are also involved in antique tractor restoration.

"We have a 1937 Farmall F-12 that the students are restoring," explains Clair Witwer, vo-ag instructor and chapter advisor.

"Actually, we have two of the old models and are trying to piece together one tractor."

And after leaving the classroom, the students proceed to their respective projects, which within a few short months will help lead to their futures in agriculture or ag-related fields.

One of these projects involves chapter member Eric Wanner, who works at the dairy operation of Jere and Ken Skiles, Rt. 2, Narvon. Eric, who does not live on a farm, has three Holsteins kept at the Skiles operation.

Included in his string are two milkers and a heifer, which is due to freshen in a couple of months.

His future plans include attending a school for herdsmen in Wisconsin and then seeking employment in that capacity in an operation in which he might be able to bring a few animals with him.

Another chapter member and senior who may move into dairying is Darryl Reiter. He has a couple head of Holsteins and may begin working some of his family's land following graduation.

Both Eric and Darryl were recipients of chain heifers awarded through the chapter.

And yet a third member of the chapter is involved in an entirely separate phase of agricultural

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Eric Wanner, of Pequea Valley FFA, holds one of his beginning string of Holsteins.



Taking part in tractor mechanics training are Mark Frey, left, and Jeff Feister, members of Pequea Valley FFA.

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