

## AGRI-LEARN joins fall school curriculum

**FAWN GROVE** — Southeastern School Board Director of York County took the lead in adopting AGRI-LEARN into the social studies curriculum for fourth graders last week.

Written by William Fleet, former vo-ag teacher and now agronomist for Pioneer International, AGRI-LEARN was developed by a York County group for inclusion in Pennsylvania schools as part of the larger nationwide effort entitled "Agriculture in the Classroom."

AGRI-LEARN editor Gail McPherson praised the Board's initiative. As president of Penn's Agri-Women and secretary of Agri-Learn Unlimited, she has been working intimately with the project for the past two years.

"We began our work planning for this curriculum study about agriculture for the regular classroom before Secretary of Agriculture John Block called the first meeting on it in June of 1981.

But we were floundering without direction as to how to go about getting our ideas implemented until that time. At the first Agriculture in the Classroom meeting in Washington DC, Emilie Welsh and I met many people from around the country doing the same sort of thing. In fact, our neighbors in Maryland already had such a program piloted and in print. When we brought home that packet of Agriculture in Maryland, which had been developed to fulfill a mandate by the Maryland legislature to teach about agriculture, all the pieces started to fall into place for our York County project.

"Of course, we decided from the start to develop a program that

would be suitable for all of Pennsylvania schools. The first draft was piloted last spring in eight school districts in the county with eight teachers, and then evaluated and reworked for the edition available now. We also determined that the importance of the task warranted our immediate attention, so we have gone to private sources for funding rather than wait for state or federal grants to materialize. As a result, we are still seeking contributions from interested persons in agriculture organizations and agribusinesses."

AGRI-LEARN came off the presses in time for the Northeastern Regional Meeting of Agriculture in the Classroom on August 31. Pennsylvania hosted the 19-state meeting at which delegates learned of the involvement of USDA in developing a state plan of action and resource guide of materials that teachers can order for use in the classroom.

According to McPherson, Secretary of Education Robert Scanlon and the Pennsylvania Department of Education have endorsed the concept and program of Agriculture in the Classroom. Scanlon committed the department to tele-conferences on the subject this year to get the word out to all Pennsylvania school districts.

"For now, it is believed that Southeastern is the first district to adopt the AGRI-LEARN STUDY as part of its curriculum. The next step is in spreading the word to all the 17 school districts in this county and to the rest of state," said McPherson. "All the delegates at the Harrisburg meeting received copies of AGRI-LEARN. Out of

stators purchased it for use in developing their own similar studies. Evaluations from the pilots were positive from both teacher and student perspectives. We are encouraged that wider distribution will result in acceptance in all schools within a

short period of time.

The contents of the AGRI-LEARN curriculum focus on enterprise aspects of modern agriculture in Pennsylvania with the following chapters: Life on a Farm, What the Farmer and Agriculture Do for You, What is a

Farmer?, The Many Types of Farms and the Types of Products that Come from Them, Farming—In Days of Old and Now, The Wheel of Fortune and the Farmer, The Path from the Farm to You, Would You Like to Work in Agriculture?, and Planning a Field Trip.

## Bill Wise wins Fair scholarship

By Laurie Dobrosky

**YORK** — The York Fair annually awards one \$250 scholarship to be used for college or a trip to a national livestock show by a youth exhibitor.

This year, the York Fair award was presented to 18-year-old Bill Wise of Spring Grove. Bill is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wise.

The award is presented annually to an outstanding 4-H member between ages 14 and 19 who has exhibited at the fair. The selection committee consists of one representative of beef, sheep, swine and dairy, 4-H York Fair board of directors, and the Extension Executive Committee.

Bill was selected for the award because of his participation in beef breeding and feeding projects, teen leadership, public speaking, livestock and meats. He exhibited two bred and owned heifers and a cow/calf pair at the 1982 fair.

Bill is presently vice-president of the York County Beef Club and the Jefferson Community Club. He is also past president of the Beef Club and York County 4-H King.

Managing his family's herd of purebred Angus cattle are Bill's plans after he graduates from Penn State with an animal production degree.

Other contestants for the award included: Christine Shive, Seven Valleys, honorable mention; Bob Livingston, Dover; Dawn Raubenstine, Hanover; Lisa

Hoover, Mt. Wolf; Martha Marsteller, Stewartstown; David King, Airville and Dana Doll, Brodbeck's; and Chrissy Hoskin, Loganville.



One of the most prestigious honors awards during the York fair is the York Fair scholarship presented to the most outstanding youth exhibitor. This year's winner was 18-year-old Bill Wise of Spring Grove, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dennis. Bill is shown here with his Angus heifer calf.

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