

FFA presidents speak out

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Carolyn Witmer - I was a member of the Parliamentary Procedure Team. We participated in four contests, local, area, regional and state. We won state (competition) and later took a trip to Canada and New England to celebrate.

Being on the team helped me learn cooperation and leadership and gave me a sense of responsibility to my other team members. We became very close through competing together. We had to make a lot of sacrifices to get together and really work.

Gail Ginder - I participated in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest. We had a first place at state and a second in tri-state (competition).

I was also a member of the Parliamentary Procedure Team and won the chain calf, one year.

What type of responsibilities do you have at home or in your work experience?

Carolyn Witmer - I show sheep and raise breeding sheep. I also have a home-garden and two acres of sweet corn.

As far as work goes, I have an on farm work experience with my father planting crops on our farm. I have work-study in the middle of

the day at Good's Greenhouse, in Bowmansville. I transplant various types of plants. The job is routine, but I find that working with different kinds of plants keeps it interesting.

I also work at Yoder's Country Market selling produce after school.

Gail Ginder - I have a work-study experience here at home. I take care of the steers and help with the milking. It takes me about one hour to feed the steers and then I help with the last of the milking in the evening.

Do you participate in shows and if so has the experience been an enjoyable one?

Carolyn Witmer - Yes, I showed at all three county fairs. I also showed at Harrisburg and Maryland.

The best part of showing has been the relationships developed with the people I've shown animals with.

I remember a personal experience where I helped fit someone else's lamb. It was his first experience with fitting and as it turned out, he won and I was second.

Gail Ginder - I showed in the district dairy FFA show at Manheim and Elizabethtown.

Showing is lots of fun and I've met many new people while showing.

What are your future plans?

Carolyn Witmer - I would like to run for a state FFA office. If I would happen to be elected, I think I would take off a year from school to use all my time for the demands of the office.

After that, I would like to go to Penn State and major in ag-communications and ag-education. I would eventually like to do some ag-teaching.

Gail Ginder - I want to go into partnership with my father. I'd also like to go to business school at Central Penn.

In your opinion what are some problems facing Lancaster County agriculture today?

Carolyn Witmer - One of the biggest problems facing us is vanishing farmland. I think the agricultural community needs to be more aware of the problem and be responsible enough to see that it (the land) is preserved as farmland.

Unfortunately, many of us don't want to get involved until we become personally affected.

Another problem we are facing is the excesses in production. It is easy to condemn the government for PIK, but something must be done to correct excess production. One side of me says we should produce as much as we possibly

can, the other side of me says, hold back.

Perhaps farmers should look at other crops to grow on our farms besides our conventional crops.

Gail Ginder - I don't like the way we have to mark hogs before they are sold at market. The tags have needles on them and are slapped on the hogs backs causing them a lot of pain.

We also need to have more people drink milk. It would solve a lot of our problems if we drank the excess milk.

Can you make any predictions for our agricultural future?

Carolyn Witmer - Agriculture is one of our nations fastest growing fields.

I foresee agriculture and food production becoming like the oil business. Our people and

agricultural products will be in demand.

Right here around Lancaster, we have many opportunities with ag-corporations and businesses, although I think it will be more difficult to get into farming in the future.

If you really want to get into farming though, it isn't impossible. In this county, a farmer doesn't need to purchase as much land as in other parts of Pa., because of the richness and productivity of the soils.

Gail Ginder - I think that if milk production comes down, there will be lots of farmers who will have problems making payments on loans. We need to encourage people to drink more milk and then we wouldn't have to reduce prices.

Record crowd attends poultry banquet

HERSHEY - A record breaking crowd, totaling 1726 in number, attended the Pa. Poultry Federation Annual Fund Raising Banquet held April 14, at the Convention Center.

Following a new format, the banquet was served downstairs to

all but 200 ticket-holders, who overflowed to the upstairs as the large ballroom filled to capacity.

Mel Tillis, a favorite country western singer, provided the evening entertainment. Accompanying Tillis was the Statesider group.

Charlie Slavin, a popular comedian, served as master of ceremonies.

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