## Swedish IFYE delegate visiting in Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — When Bjarne V. Svederus visits the state 4-H conference next week (June 27-30) at the University of Maryland, he might be coaxed into sharing a Swedish game or folk dance connected with Midsummer Night, a traditional festival celebrated June 25 and 26 in his native land.

Or, he might be persuaded to share some insights about Flag Day in Sweden, marked each year on June 6 — just eight days ahead of Flag Day in the United States, but with a history which predates the U.S. observance by 254 years.

At state 4-H conference time, Bjarne will have finished nearly 2/3 of a three-month Maryland visit under auspices of the International 4-H Youth Exchange program. In August, he'll go to Nebraska for a similar three-month experience.

Raised on a 91-acre grain and pig farm in a land where consumer and farmer-owned cooperative organizations traditionally have been strong, the 24-year-old Swede is staying in Maryland on the upper Eastern Shore and in the Baltimore area.

His family farm is located at Balsunda near Orsundsbro in Uppsala land, about 45 miles northwest of Stockholm. This is a coastal lowland area near the Baltic Sea. It is situated on the upper reaches of Malaren, a large freshwater lake which reaches all the way to Stockholm.

The most important city in Bjarne's home area is Uppsala, a very historic place which was once the capital of Sweden. It's also the site of the country's biggest university, which includes Ulltuna — Sweden's most important agricultural school.

Bjarne was involved in college preparatory study and office work prior to his U.S. visit. But upon returning to Sweden in the fall, he hopes to start in a new direction as an architecture student at Gothenberg. He has had 50 months of military training and taken vocational courses in carpentry.

At home on the farm, Bjarne's father raises small grains and farrows two litters of pigs annually from each of his 15 sows. The big white hogs are Swedish Landrace and English Yorkshire crossbreds.

In recent years, Bjarne said, many Swedish farmers have tried upgrading their swine herds in a three-way crossbreeding program with the introduction of large black pigs from England — probably Essex or Berkshire.

Animal welfare legislation has

been passed in Sweden in recent years, Bjarne reported, but these laws apply primarily to gross mistreatment of farm animals.

More strict are the water pollution regulations which require each Swedish family in rural at eas to purify all of its waste water. This purification process is accomplished with a series of settling tanks

During the 20 years or so that the water pollution laws have been in effect, large lakes like Malaren have been made fishable and swimmable despite a high population of livestock farms on its shores. However, there is still enough manure in storm-water runoff to cause some problems with algae growth on the lake.

Bjarne spent the first three

weeks of his Maryland visit (May 12-June 2) with the William B. Kilby family, a dairy farm operation at Colora. He is currently spending 3½ weeks (June 2-26) with the E. Theodore. Kimbles, a rural nonfarm family at Barclay.

Then it's three days (June 27-30) at the state 4-H conference and 2½ weeks (June 30-July 16) with the Wayne C. McGinnis family, ā beef cattle operation at White Hall. Bjarne will wind up his Maryland visit by spending two weeks (July 7-31) with an inner-city family in Baltimore.

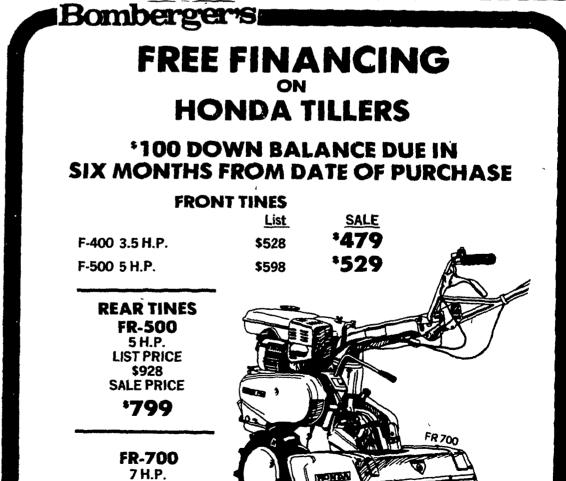




Bjarne V. Svederus, right, International 4-H Youth Exchange delegate from Sweden, gets a lesson in swine conformation from William A. Curry, Extension livestock specialist at the University of Maryland in College Park. Curry is holding a scale model of "Jasper," a pig which won the National Barrow Show several years ago at Austin, Minn. In U.S. hog circles, Jasper is still considered "the perfect market barrow."







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