

President's Youth Exchange Initiative Benefits 4-H

LANCASTER — On May 24, 1982, President Reagan announced the Initiative, a cooperative undertaking between government and the private sector. This liaison, which will have direct benefits for the Pennsylvania 4-H programs, is promoting direct youth exchanges as a way to ensure closer relations and improved cross-cultural understanding. During 1984, a push will be made to expand the youth exchange into additional countries.

Charles Z. Wick, director of the United States Information Agency (USIA), is Reagan's personal representative to the program. Through USIA grants, American non-profit exchange organizations that have demonstrated competence in selecting host families and providing youth representatives receive funding to increase their number of exchanges.

4-H International Youth Exchange (IFYE) is one of 35 organizations benefitting from the Initiative. Established by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service in 1948, IFYE has since made it possible for more than 3000 young Americans to visit 89 foreign nations. Each year nearly 2000 families worldwide provide homes for IFYE delegates, the majority of whom spend six weeks to five months living with several different families in their host country. During 1983, young men and women from 30 countries were exchanged with American delegates from all over the United States.

"The International 4-H Youth Exchange is a vehicle for personal growth and development," says Dan E. Moore, associate professor of rural sociology at Penn State and a former 4-H member. "It allows delegates to realize being a leader doesn't always mean chairing an organization or being captain of a team. Learning another way of life, improving communication skills, and sharing ideas teach the delegates self-confidence as well as a deeper understanding of themselves and their own culture."

"I have a better world appreciation," says Emily Hallowell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Penrose Hallowell of Bucks County. Ms. Hallowell is a 1981 horticulture graduate of Penn State and a 1983 IFYE delegate to Finland.

"There's a moment when you feel frustrated and overwhelmed by the language barrier," she says. "Then you learn to beat it. You speak with hand and facial movements. Eventually you start to learn the language, and it doesn't take all that long."

Tina Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Taylor of Dauphin County, spent six months in the Netherlands as a 1983 IFYE representative. She corresponded with the state 4-H office during her stay.

"The only way to really learn about a country and its people is to live there, with those people," she wrote. "...In the past two months, I have lived in three provinces—South Holland, Zeeland and



Members of the 1983 International 4-H Youth Exchange gathered at Penn State's University Park Campus to discuss the opportunities offered through this overseas program. Back row (left to right): Tina Taylor, Dauphin County; Cheryl Compton, Indiana County; Wendy Fahnestock, Lebanon County; Douglas Brant, Somerset County; and Kevin Sames, Bucks County. Front row (left to right): Susan Mummah, Juniata County; Janice Homan, Westmoreland County; Joan Liesau, Dauphin County; Emily Hallowell, Bucks County; and Thomas Reyburn, Centre County.

Freisland. Moving around to different areas has shown me that, even in a country so small, the people can be very different. In each province I found different lifestyles, costumes and even a different language."

The President's Council for

International Youth Exchange includes more than 100 chief executive officers of American corporations and other representatives of the private sector in coordination with the USIA. In further pursuit of a genuine public/private sector collaboration, the Council works

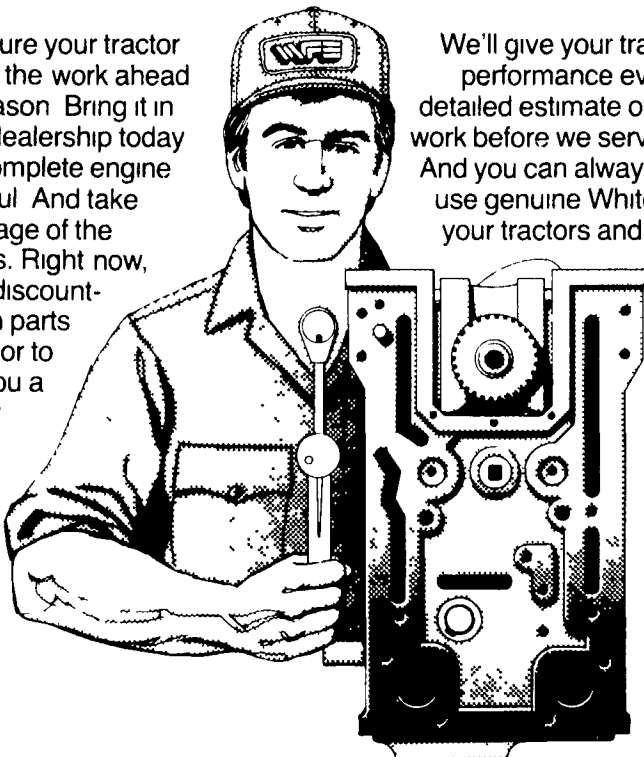
with and lends financial support to established non-profit international exchange organizations such as the International 4-H Youth Exchange, The Council on International Education Exchange and YMCA International Program Services.



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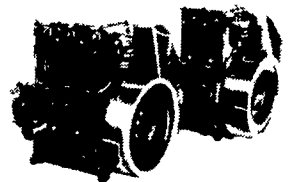
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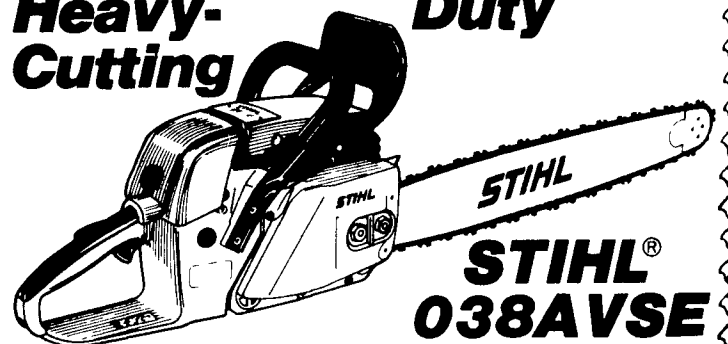
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