

Dan Martin

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agriculture on either side of his family.

"But he's always loved animals and been interested in the outdoors," explains Mrs. Martin.

Even though his parents were supportive of his agriculture interests from the start, they weren't quite ready to accept his hectic schedule without reservations when he went to work on the Witmer's dairy farm last summer.

"We wondered when he started this job. And we told him that his studies would have to come first,"

recalls Mrs. Martin. "But he just said, 'don't worry, mother'.

"We told him that he has the rest of his life to work," she continues, "but he said, 'It's not work, mom, I love it'."

And love it, he must, to maintain a weekly regimen that reveals precious little leisure time. After helping with the dairy herd, Dan jumps into his 1962 Studebaker and gets home by 7 a.m. to clean up for school. "I don't think I'd have very many friends if I'd go to school right after work," he laughs.

Shortly before 8 a.m. he arrives at school, ready to dig into a full course load of three agriculture

courses, English and World Cultures.

At 3 p.m. it's time to head to his grandfather's barn to care for his own stock, and then on to the Witmer farm at 3:45 where he warms up for milking time by feeding Marvin Witmer's 60 head of steers.

After the milkhouse is set up and the calves are fed, Dan and Marvin begin milking and finish at 6:00, after the cows have received their hay.

By 8:30 Dan is under the covers, in preparation for another early start.

By the time the weekend rolls

around, it's time to clean the barn where his livestock is kept. Dan also buys feed on Saturdays and cares for his pigs that are kept at the home of friend and fellow FFA member Alex Smith. The two are partners in the swine business and are currently in the process of remodeling Smith's barn and adding new farrowing crates.

Though Dan enjoys working with all species of livestock his first love is dairy farming. So with an eye toward owning a dairy herd someday, he now owns his first heifer, a Brown Swiss that he calls Cinnamon. The young dairyman

made his breed choice on the basis of the relatively high butterfat content of Brown Swiss milk, and because he, "just wanted to be a little different."

But before Dan settles down to make a living at dairying, he has some specific goals in mind for the interim. First on the agenda will be his application for the Keystone Degree at the FFA's next mid-winter convention. He also has his sights set on the coveted American Farmer Degree.

Educational plans include a two-year college, preferably with a major in dairy farm management. After graduation Dan hopes to take a job as a dairy farm hired hand, eventually taking over some of the culling and breeding responsibilities.

By the time he reaches 25 to 30, Dan hopes to own, or at least be renting his own dairy farm.

"I think that if I set my heart on it, then I can attain that goal," Dan asserts.

At first glance working into the dairy business may seem to be an unattainable goal these days, especially for those young farmers on the outside looking in. But if the early bird does indeed get what he's looking for, then this energetic young Lancaster County dairyman can look to the future with confidence.

PAFC seeks summer program alumni

HUNTINGDON — The search is on for former scholars of the PAFC Summer Youth Institute.

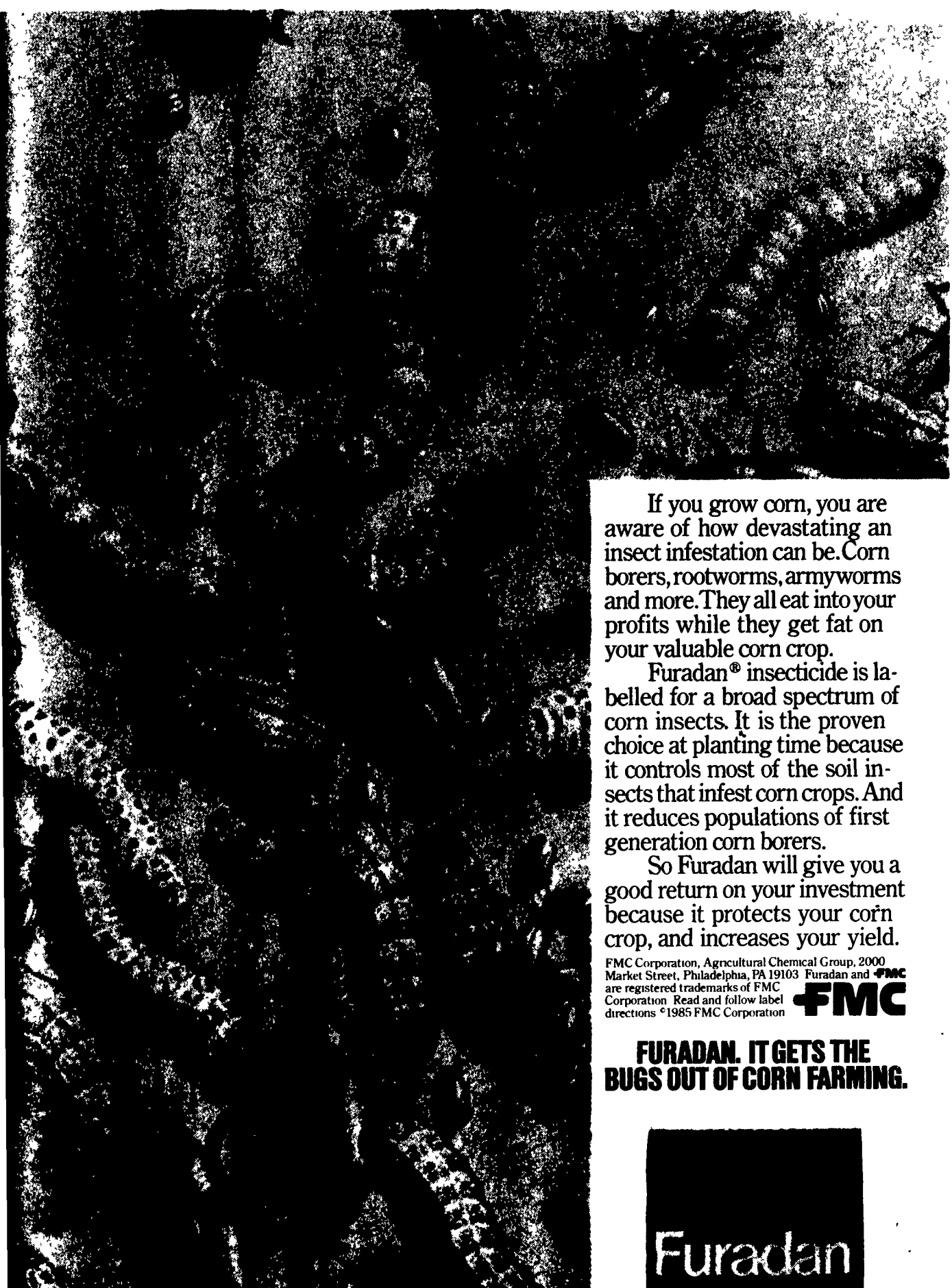
The Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives is making an all-out effort to locate alumni of their annual Summer Institute to invite them to join a special celebration.

This year marks the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the Institute, which has trained over 3,500 Pennsylvania youth in cooperative business principles. The Institute began in 1961. Participants in the program learn how agricultural cooperatives are organized, managed and operated.

The 25th Silver Jubilee celebration will be held on July 8 during the 1985 Summer Institute at Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa. Special events will include a picnic for alumni and current scholars plus a special address by Henry Schriver, the witty Ohio farmer philosopher.

"These special events provide a perfect opportunity for alumni to become reacquainted with each other and the Summer Institute Program," says Chris Peterson, PAFC Youth Program Director. "It will be very helpful to us as cooperative leaders to know the location of our alumni and gain a sense of our continuing involvement with cooperatives and agriculture."

If you or someone you know is an alumnus of the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives Summer Institute, please write or call Peg Luckovich as soon as possible at RD 1, Box 405, Bellefonte, PA, 16823, 814-355-7918. When writing please include your current address.



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