

## SCS Technician

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and related installations. But they are guidelines and some creativity and flexibility is allowed for technicians to make plans workable in the site limitations of each farm.

While Ann expects a good deal of her work to continue with manure management and the Bay program, she notes that there is a steady demand by farmers for assistance in establishing conservation measures, even when totally at their own cost.

"But people are becoming more aware of conservation than they have been in the past," she acknowledges.

The Meyers have lived in York County since 1983 and recently purchased a 20-acre farm near Loganville. It's closer to Ray's job as manager of a hog production facility and has plenty of play area for the couple's two-year-old son, Matthew.

A purebred Dorset flock of 35 ewes is the Meyer's own farm enterprise, an interest sparked through college work in the sheep barns at Penn State. Lambing is geared toward holiday markets, with the heaviest season from December to March, and some ewes catching back again for December.

Future merchandising goals are aimed at sales for club lambs and replacement ewes. And, while showing is not a major moving force behind the flock yet, the Meyers exhibit a few head in local

competitions, such as the York Fair.

"You have to decide what's most important to you," says Ann of the modern dilemma of a career mother. "Matthew 'helps' me a lot when I'm at home."

A four-day work week has

proved to be a real plus for Ann. Long weekends enable her to spend more time with Matthew, keep up with farm and household chores, and sandwich in the canning, freezing, flowers and sewing pastimes she enjoys.



Herbie the ram is king of the Meyer flock of purebred Dorsets.

## Teenage Employment Has Pros and Cons

NEWARK, Del. — Fall is a fine time for teenagers to find jobs, but some educators and psychologists fear that flipping hamburgers and filling grocery bags will do more to foster bad grades and encourage spending than to advance the work ethic.

"We often just assume it is good for teens to work," says Dr. Patricia Nelson, University of Delaware specialist in family and child development. "But we need to be careful about the kinds of experiences they are getting and make sure the jobs are fostering the kind of work habits we really want them to have."

Statistics show that almost two-thirds of today's high school students hold part-time jobs, and nearly all students join the workforce before graduating.

Many part-time, low-skill jobs have been created for teens, particularly in fast food restaurants and grocery stores, Nelson says. On the positive side of such employment, researchers still believe these jobs can help teens learn to manage their time while meeting their monetary goals.

Another encouraging trend, Nelson notes, is a growing movement by large corporations to recruit students for summer jobs and set up mentor relationships with regular employees. "We can document that the number of teenagers in the labor pool is dwindling," Nelson says. "And businesses are now becoming involved in job training to guarantee qualified beginning workers"

"We still believe a job can be a valuable experience for a teenager," says the specialist, "as it gives him a chance to behave as an adult."

Recent research has shown, however, that teenagers often work too many hours or work irregular hours at short notice. "This is a pattern that often plays havoc with good study habits," Nelson says. "I don't think many adults would put up with it."

Working teenagers often have too much money and too few expenses, so they spend their money on cars and clothes—even alcohol and drugs. Nelson believes that parents should carefully oversee the spending habits of their working teen. She notes that some institutions are setting up guidelines for teen employment. "One school requires its working students to save 10 percent of their wages," she says.

"We want parents to be aware that working is not totally wonderful," she says. "Often the low-skill jobs don't teach the teen anything helpful to their long-term careers."

Since teens are unlikely to stop working, Nelson suggests some guidelines that can be followed to make the work experience more positive.

- The first guideline is to encourage teens to work no more than 15 to 20 hours a week.

- Find a job that is in some way related to the teen's career aspirations.

- Finally, parents and teachers are encouraged to monitor the ways teens spend their money.

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