

College Intern Program

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that it would be easy to slough through the job doing the minimum to earn the room, board, tuition and stipend that come with the job. However for Laine it has become more than a job. "I'm addicted to this place. You build such a concern for the place — how it looks, the cows, little details."

He credits Knight with a making the program run smoothly and helping him to learn as much as he has. "I really appreciate Paul for his trust. He has always been very helpful and congenial," Laine remarked.

Despite the long hours and demands of the job, Laine has not fallen behind in class requirements and will graduate in 1989. He was

able to accomplish this by taking a heavier credit load in his first three semesters at the college.

This fall's intern, Al Jenkins, is taking classes this summer to get a jump on course work as well as easing into the program by working at the dairy. By doing this, he plans to learn more about the cows and the farm to be better prepared for the responsibilities he will encounter. Al has worked at the dairy for the past two years under work study.

"It is going to be a lot of responsibility quick," Al observed. The junior dairy husbandry major notes that he is looking forward to the challenge of the intern position.

Al, originally from Baltimore, Md., relocated when his family moved to Fawn Grove in York

County. Without benefit of a farm background he calls the position "imperative." He added, "Without this position I couldn't say that I've had any kind of leadership position on a farm."

One of the appealing parts of Delaware Valley's program for Al was the practical aspect. Al first became familiar with agriculture through the Future Farmers of America chapter at his high school. He remained undecided about his future until the summer after graduation from high school when he worked on a dairy farm.

Like Al, Laine did not come from a farm. However, Laine did work for 10 years on a nearby dairy farm prior to college. At this farm, Gordon Turk's dairy in Centerville, he did just about everything.

Knight reiterated his praise for

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both students. He noted that their enthusiasm for the job has created a more enthusiastic environment at the dairy for everyone. Knight explained that the intern program gives the students something to work for. "They have one year to shine," he commented.

He admits that students who enter into the program will see their grades slip somewhat. However, he feels the practical experience they gain and the first-hand knowledge they learn will do more for them in the workplace than a straight A grade point average will.

Hepner explained that the intern program has been expanded to the orchard. However, because of the different seasonal work pressures, the orchard internship is for two

semesters as opposed to the dairy which is year-round. College administrators are also considering expanding the intern program into other areas of the college, depending on the success of the initial project and financing possibilities.

Financing for the intern program comes from within the college and not from any type of grant program, Hepner explained.

Officials at the college are optimistic about the future of the intern program which follows the college's philosophy of a hands-on type of practical experience. They feel this type of experience creates a total learning package and makes students more marketable in the workplace.

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To prepare a field of seed wheat on the farm of Levi Rohrer, Lititz, Sam Reist of Reist Seed Company, Mount Joy, cuts the garlic and obnoxious weeds along the edge of the field. Lancaster Farming Editor Newswanger happened by on Thursday afternoon and found out that the field was planted with Saluda wheat and was in good condition to be harvested for seed about July 4.

Reist reported that a few fields of early barley had already been cut and that next week the barley harvest would get into full swing. Grain yields look good in this area with adequate moisture to grow the crops.

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