

Garden Spot Chapter

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with an animal, crop, or speech. "If the student raises a project we encourage him to show it at the fair. If he has the chance to be in further competition, I expect him to go further."

In order to help students accomplish all that they can, Smith visits them at their home. "When I visit them in their home situation, I can pinpoint where they could be doing better with their project. I also can see if they are doing all that they can within their family situation."

For instance if a student lives on a farm where hogs and beef cattle are raised, Smith encourages the

student to be involved with raising both types of animals.

"Visiting the student at home also lets them know you care and are concerned about what they are doing," Smith added.

Welk and Harnish flourished under Smith's tutelage as well as from his predecessor, Richard Yentcer, who is now teaching in New York.

Both Welk and Harnish attribute their FFA success to their teachers. "We had two fine ag advisors: Richard Yentcer and Steve Smith," said Harnish. "They were two guys who kept track of contests and helped with advice on

records. They were there to look at your projects and make suggestions. They were on the ball."

Welk agreed, adding "We had a really strong ag program. The first teacher tried to teach the basics in leadership. Smith taught me how to try and manage programs and work with people."

Both teachers encouraged their students to look into the future to see their options. They also tried to expose their students to various methods of operating a farm or business.

"We got to see different operations and how they worked, and we could decide how we'd manage things on our own place," noted Welk.

Welk, 21, lives in Strasburg at

his parents' farm when he's not in college. Welk owns a herd of 25 dairy cows of which 15 are leased to other farmers. The remaining 10 are young stock being raised on the farm.

In the leasing arrangement, Welk leases a cow for about \$300 to \$400 per year, payable in four installments, to a farmer. The farmer feeds the cow, pays the veterinarian bills, and breeds the cow through artificial insemination to a bull that he and Welk have agreed upon. The farmer receives the milk check and Welk receives the cow's offspring.

Welk's interest in dairy cows began early as he watched his father work. Don Welk Sr. owns and operates Stonehurst Farm Dairy Sales Inc. He buys and sells dairy cows and bulls, horses, and mules.

However, when Welk became a 4-H'er, he started out with steers. "But the steers were too big and too wild and I was too small, so I decided to stick with dairy cows," recalled Welk. He joined the Red Rose Dairy Club and throughout the years served as reporter, vice president, treasurer, and president.

Welk started out with one cow and tried to increase his herd by one calf per year. Many of the calves were purchased however, as his first cow produced nine bulls out of the nine calves that she had.

When Welk reached high school, he joined the Garden Spot Chapter and immediately became involved in the club's leadership. During his freshman and sophomore years he was the news reporter; in his junior year he was chapter and county vice president; in his last year of high school, Welk assumed the duties of president.

Welk's FFA projects included dairy judging and crop production. He also was involved in citrus sales, selling more than any other Lampeter-Strasburg student each year that he was in high school.

Among the numerous awards that Welk has garnered include Star Greenhand, Star Chapter Farmer, Red Rose Farmer, and Keystone Degrees; DeKalb Award; proficiency awards in crop produc-

tion; Foundation Award; Lancaster County Banker's Award; and several dairy judging team and individual wins.

Welk also spent his money wisely during these years to buy farm equipment. "We don't need all the implements at the farm but I hope to use them after college when I go into farming," he explained.

He would attend sales and buy good, used equipment. Any that needing repair or renovation would become one of his high school shop projects. Among the more than a dozen implements he has are tillage, hay, and tobacco equipment.

Currently Welk is putting his leadership and organizational skills to work for the Penn State Dairy Science Club. This year he helped organize the Nittany Lion Fall Classic, which is a cow/heifer sale sponsored by the club and the Pennsylvania Holstein Association.

Barry Harnish chose another route than college for his future. He is working with his father, Nelson, on the family dairy farm.

"I work for a percentage of the milk check," he said. "As the number of cows increase and the milk increases so does the percentage."

During high school, Harnish participated in dairy cow, steer, and corn production projects. He also became involved in public speaking, specializing in extemporaneous speaking in his senior year. In competitions he placed second in the county, third in the area and region, and sixth in the state.

Harnish received several awards in FFA including the greenhand, chapter, Red Rose Farmer, and Keystone degrees. He also was chapter treasurer for two years.

In the year after he graduated, Harnish was the eastern regional vice president for the state FFA organization. "I visited schools, helped plan and run the state convention, attended local FFA banquets and special school functions, and judged competitions," said Harnish of his duties. He also carried the state flag each day at the national convention that year.

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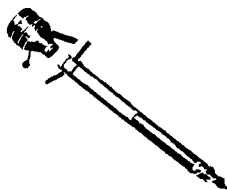
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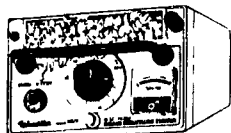
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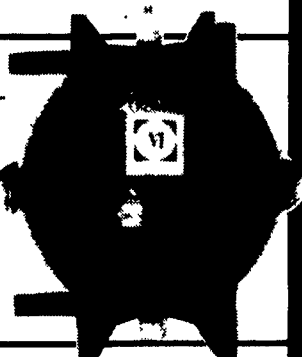
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