

FFA "Meating" Out Rewards

BY LISA RISSER
WILLOW STREET (Lancaster) — While most people seeking

deer consider themselves lucky to see a few during the hunting season, Brian Weldy has seen enough

deer in the past two weeks to last a lifetime.

Of course the difference for Weldy is that the deer he sees are the carcasses brought to the butcher shop where he works.

Weldy, a junior at Lampeter-Strasburg High School, has worked at Hess's Butcher Shop for about four years and has made his job there an FFA project.

It all began when "one summer I didn't have much to do (around home), so I came around the shop and they gave me odds and ends to do," explained Weldy, the son of Shirley and John Singleton. That led to a clean-up job, which he did for three years.

Now Weldy can cut meat, hang meat in the smokehouse, cure ham, bacon, and bologna, and stuff bologna, sausage, and pepper sticks. He works on hog, steer, deer, and bear carcasses.

"I like boning meat best," Weldy related. Boning meat involves readying it for hamburger or putting it into a product such as bologna. "Boning meat takes skill; you have to learn where each bone is located and how to take the meat off of it."

"Brian's a management-oriented worker," said his boss Lloyd Hess, co-owner of the shop. "You put him on a job and he doesn't have to be watched."

Because his butchering serves as an FFA project, Weldy must record the hours he works and what he does each day in a project book. In addition, he must note the money he receives.

Last year Weldy's project book



Using a slicer, Brian cuts deer steaks.



Brian Weldy stands besides some bologna that are ready to be cured. Brian stuffs bologna, sausage, and pepper sticks and cures hams, bacon, and bologna.

won him second-place honors in the school contest. This year he hopes to earn the top spot.

During busy times, such as deer season, Weldy uses farm days—days the school allows FFA students to work on their projects in place of school attendance.

Weldy, who doesn't live on a farm or have a farm background, became interested in FFA as an

eighth grader. "We had clubs to choose from that met on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the last period of the day," he explained. "I wanted to see what junior FFA was like, so I joined it. I learned a lot of stuff after I got in, so I joined the high school chapter."

Weldy is active in the Garden Spot FFA chapter and has been

(Turn to Page A25)

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See This Issue, Section D, For Details



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