

Grassland FFA Members Tour RSU College Of Ag

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Selected members of the Grassland FFA from Garden Spot High School recently participated in an all-day tour of Penn State's College of Agriculture. Ag Instructors Phil Oglie and Bob Lauffer set up the tour with the cooperation of Marianne L. Houser, Coordinator of Undergraduate Recruitment for the College of Agriculture.

Garden Spot agriculture students who took part in the tour, which was designed to orient them to the possibilities within the College of Agriculture, included: Mike Diem, Steve Horst, Alan Houck, Bob Jenkins, Corey Kunkle, Chris Long, Shelly Oglie, and Greg Huber.

The day started with a tour of Penn State's Deer Research Facility where the group saw the results of various research projects on nutrition, antler growth, genetics, etc. A highlight was a close-up look at Penn State's prize buck who weighed well over 300 pounds at 2½ years of age (a Penn State record).

Also of interest was the research being done on the Blue Duiker, a member of the deer family that is the world's smallest ruminant animal. These tiny deer will ultimately become the "white mice" of ruminant digestion and nutrition research since they are small and lend themselves well to laboratory research.

Next the Garden Spot group toured the Penn State University Creamery and were exposed to the rapidly growing technologies in handling, processing, storing and marketing of milk and milk products. They saw everything from milk to ice cream to cultured products such as cheeses and yogurt.

They were then treated to a famous Penn State ice-cream cone of their choice.

Marianne Houser gave the group an overview of the College of Agriculture. She stressed the importance of getting a strong background in math, science and communications to be successful in today's agricultural world. She told the students that the agricultural background they are obtaining in high school and the leadership skills they are obtaining through FFA participation will put them in a good position when it comes to being successful in college and ultimately in their careers. She also outlined procedures for application and admission and the many possibilities for financial assistance and scholarships in the agricultural areas.

The group was then exposed to a series of short presentations from various departments within the College of Agriculture including: Dairy and Animal Science, Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business Management, Food Science (which stresses the practical applications of science as relates to the food industry), Agronomy (crops and soils), ERM (Environmental Resource Management) which is an interdisciplinary program which works with seven departments in the College of Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Science.

Next on the agenda was a trip to the Forest Resources laboratory on campus where they were exposed to research being done on the effects of acid precipitation on various tree species, methods of propagating trees, etc.

The last stop of the day was a side trip to the Pa. Fish Commission's Fish Culture Station at Ben-



Steve Horst, Corey Kunkle and Bob Jenkins a research project in the forestry department on the effects of acid rain on forests.

ner Springs where the students saw the latest methods of feeding and rearing trout in raceways.

The consensus of the group after a 14-hour day and whirlwind tour was that they were exhausted but had gained a lot of insight and had some definite food for thought as the considered future schooling and employment possibilities. Students suggested the possibility of expanding the program to two days next year so that they could absorb more and go into more depth on some of the areas to which they had been exposed.



Ag Instructor Phil Oglie (front) and Steve Horst, sophomore at Garden Spot, examine the plant science projects during the tour of Penn State's College of Agriculture.

Penn State Names Extension Directors

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Dr. Theodore R. Alter, Diane V. Brown and Dr. Paul J. Wangsness have been named regional directors for Penn State Cooperative Extension. As regional directors they will supervise county and regional staff, coordinate program development and administer budgets for their geographic regions. Pennsylvania is divided into five geographic regions and the regional director is the administrative officer for the region.

Alter, professor of agricultural economics, began his new duties as director of the southeast region July 1. The counties in the southeast region include Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill.

In the department of agricultural economics his major responsibilities centered on the development and implementation of extension and research programs. Those programs focused on government finance and its relationship to environmental quality, the provision of public services and economic development.

In 1985, he received the American Agricultural Economics Association Distinguished Extension Program Award. The award recognized his efforts in developing a program designed to help citizens, local government officials and extension agents meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of government financial management and public financial policy making.

He earned his bachelor of arts degree in economics from the University of Rochester and his

master of science and Ph.D. in resource economics from Michigan State University. He also served three years in the U.S. Army.

Brown most recently was assistant to the regional director in the southeast region. She began her new duties as regional director of the western region Aug. 1. The region consists of 17 counties including Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Fayette, Erie, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland and Venango.

As assistant to the director she worked closely with the director in developing programs and priorities for the region. She began her career in extension working as an extension home economist in Virginia for two years. She held simi-

lar positions in Maryland for nine years and in Iowa for two years.

Brown came to Pennsylvania in 1980 as a regional extension home economist in the southeast. Her responsibilities in an eight-county area included providing program leadership in family resource management, energy, equipment and food economics.

Throughout her career in extension, she has been a leader in state and national professional associations and a spokesperson for extension at the national level. In 1988 she received the Ruby Award, a state distinguished service award given in recognition of outstanding contributions and excellence in programming by an individual. It is the highest award given to a state cooperative extension professional.

In 1985 she received the Out-

standing Pennsylvania Home Economist Award from the National Association of Extension Home Economists. She was the first extension home economist in Pennsylvania to be so honored. The award is given to an individual who has received the association's Distinguished Service Award and who has been active in personal and professional improvement programs.

Brown has a bachelor's degree in home economics education

from Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia. She earned a master's degree in family management and community development from the University of Maryland. Currently, she is completing the requirements for her doctorate in education in adult education from Penn State.

Wangsness, head of the department of dairy and animal science and professor of animal nutrition, will direct efforts for the seven counties in the capital region. Those counties include: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York. He will begin Sept. 1.

Wangsness has been head of dairy and animal science since 1980. As department head, he has had responsibility for departmental programs in support of extension, research and teaching.

During his tenure the department has continued to attract top faculty with more than half of the faculty hired over the last eight years. External funding is now four times greater and several research areas have gained international recognition. Wangsness is very proud of a new graduate major in animal science, a new undergraduate major in dairy and animal science and the depart-



Paul Wangsness



Ted Alter



Diane Brown