

DelVal FFA Students Help Others

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donated land to be subdivided into plots for people who don't have the opportunity to grow fresh vegetables. We are going to teach them how to garden and take care of the plots up to five years if they are willing to do it that long."

For the sun-tanned, muscular youth who has spent the last eight summers working at the Funk Brothers vegetable farm and green houses near here, to help feed hungry people and teach them to be self-sustaining has personal motivation.

"I get a good feeling through knowing I am actually doing something worthwhile," Barnett said. "I know I have a lot of opportunities that are given to me that many other people are not as fortunate to have. I would like to share some of mine with them."

For Barnett and the 14 to 16 other FFA student volunteers at DelVal, there is no course credit involved in the projects. Their work may look good on a future job resume, but mostly it's a labor of love.

DelVal has two to three acres for vegetables and 15 acres of peaches and apples that are sold by students

at a roadside stand. Under Professor Claycomb's direction, students with majors in these fields get hands-on experience.

"My main interest in the Terra Vision programs is to have people learn how to raise vegetables so we can give them a plot to raise food," Claycomb said. Along with the land from the college, he said, the Philadelphia Electric Company provides land that can be divided into 34 growing plots for individuals to use.

"Next year, we hope to be in full swing with these projects," he said.

For Vilma Fratton, a retiree from the business world, the programs to engage FFA students, 4-H members, and many other volunteers has been started to "connect family, farmers, and food kitchens," said Fratton. She is asking every interested party to raise extra fruit or vegetables this year and donate them to their local food kitchen.

The volunteers will visit their community and sign up farmers, asking them to "Grow A Row" and donate it to the needy. The student is to make the connection between the farmer and the local food kitchen. This way, according to Frat-

tone, there is no distribution problem and no money exchanges hands. The response has been exceptional.

Seed companies, corporations, and small businesses have donated to the projects. At DelVal, two acres of vegetables are being grown for a local program that supplies distribution to the needy in Bucks County. Large quantities of sweet corn has been donated at harvest time. And in western Pennsylvania, pumpkins will be made available.

FFA student Glenn Cappo is also a food broker. He is signing up many New Jersey farmers and overseeing the deliveries. Cappo expects tons of food to be donated by the end of harvest.

For Barnett, the idea is to use the food bank at Central Manor. The people at his church, the Washington Boro Church of God, have offered to help.

Student Kenneth Hartman plans to work in northwestern Pennsylvania near the Ohio border. He hopes to involve junior and high school students and his 4-H club in his hometown near Pittsburgh.

James Wabler of Coopersburg is Claycomb's assistant. Wabler

helped to plant and oversee the two gardens at the college. He will also go into the community and teach people in low-income areas the best way to get the most out of their

urban growing plots. Wabler and Claycomb will run free classes at the college for those who wish to learn production methods.

Pennsylvania Livestock Auction

Waynesburg, Pa.

Thurs., June 11, 1992

Report Supplied by Auction

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Report Supplied by Auction
June 6, 1992

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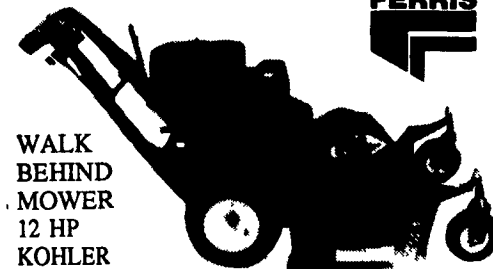


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