

Farm Bureau International Young Farmer Study Tour Set

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Eleven young members of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (Farm Bureau) will be traveling through Europe August 16-26 as part of the farm organization's pilot Young Farmer and Rancher (YF&R) International Study Tour. The YF&R group will be visiting farmers, farm organizations, educational institutions and agribusinesses during the tour of four nations starting in Munich, Germany.

Members of the YF&R overseas tour group are: Brian and Fay Dietrich of 8459 Kistler Valley Rd., New Tripoli; Rebekah Gross of 190 Manchester St., Manchester; David and Beth Hartman of RR 3, Bernville, Ralph and Crystal Moyer of 91 Frystown Road, Frystown; Donald and Joanne Stoltzfus of RR 1 Morgantown; and Steve and Bonnie Wenger of 549 Schaeffer Rd., Lebanon.

The purpose of the trip, according to tour coordinator Ralph Moyer, will be to gain "an up-close look at the European approach to agriculture and find out what European farmers think about international trade issues. We will also be asking them about environmental and animal rights issues which they've been dealing with longer than we have in the United States." Moyer is past president of PA Farm Bureau's YF&R committee.

The group will be headed by the current YF&R chairperson, Rebekah "Becky" Gross of York County. "It's not going to be a vacation," she said. "The tour is the capstone of YF&R's leadership training program. We hope to gain

a global perspective that will help us as future leaders in Farm Bureau." All eleven tour members have participated in the YF&R state leadership conferences, PA Farm Bureau annual meeting programs and the YF&R Washington Tour.

Every member of the group will be keeping a travel journal to record their observations on production agriculture, marketing, real estate, education, government, farm organizations and farm supply and service businesses in the countries they visit. Upon their return they will help compile a report for Farm Bureau's State Board of Directors. The State Board is supporting the young farmers by helping to underwrite tour expenses. Group members also contacted local sponsors in the agribusiness community for additional support and will be available to them for follow-up reports on the trip. "Raising funds from local supporters is part of the educational process for these young farmers," explained Farm Bureau's Director of Program Development and Training, Fred Kerr. "It gives everybody — Farm Bureau, the local sponsors and the young farmers — a vested interest in the outcome of the tour." The young farmers will also be making a presentation during Farm Bureau's annual meeting in November.

One of the highlights of the tour will be a two-day stay by each couple with host farmers in southern Germany. The tour agenda also includes a visit to the Agricultural University at Frelising-Wechenstephan and the Bavarian Cen-

ter of Animal Husbandry. A meeting with the Bavarian Farmer's Association is planned. In Switzerland the group will tour Alpine dairy and livestock operations and meet with representatives of the provisional agriculture department. They will meet with the U.S. Agricultural Attache and

Swiss Agricultural Ministry in Bern as well as members of the Swiss Young Farmers. They will visit the Ciba-Geigy Corporation headquarters in Basel, Switzerland and will tour mountain farm operations in Liechtenstein and Austria. Tours of livestock mar-

kets and a dairy cooperative are also planned.

"There will be some time for sightseeing but it's a pretty full itinerary," said Mrs. Gross. "The opportunities to learn are unlimited. We hope this will be the first of many international YF&R tours to come."

Pennsylvania Minority Students Get Ag Grand Tour

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Some 39 minority high school students got the chance to dig into the turf at Beaver Stadium, digest the workings of a cow's stomach, make a flower arrangement and a host of other activities as part of a Food and Agricultural Sciences Workshop held Sunday, July 24 through Friday, July 29 on Penn State's University Park campus.

Designed as a recruiting effort to get science-minded minority students to consider the College of Agricultural Sciences' educational opportunities, the workshop featured five days of intensive, hands-on demonstrations by various departments in the college.

The workshop, funded by the university's Equal Opportunity Planning Committee, was targeted toward high school sophomores and juniors who have not yet made a decision on a career path, says Dr. Cathy Bowen, assistant professor of agricultural and extension education. Cathy Bowen and Dr. Blannie Bowen, C. Lee Rum-

berger, professor of agricultural and extension education, organized and planned the workshop.

The college sent flyers to high school science teachers and counselors across the state who recommended nearly 50 students, many from eastern Pennsylvania.

Activities for the students centered on demonstrations and tours rather than classroom work. "We wanted to make sure the kids were not sitting in a classroom listening to someone talk, because there is no quicker way to turn off their interest," Cathy Bowen said.

Blannie Bowen, who organized the activities for the students, emphasized that most of the demonstrations delved into complicated and scientific issues. "Many of the kids coming in don't have an extensive background in science, so we want to catch them early enough so they can go back and pick up those science courses," he says. "We wanted to make sure they went deeper into the science aspect than a tour of the University Creamery."

Bowen pointed out that the College of Agricultural Sciences loses many talented science students — minority or otherwise — because high school students are simply unaware of the scientific work done within the college. "Those kids go into biology or engineering and we lose out," he explained.

After a Sunday orientation session, the workshop started Monday, July 25, with food science and, yes, a tour of the Creamery.

Demonstrations in food chemistry and sensory analysis followed. Monday afternoon was dedicated to delving into plant pathology.

On Tuesday, July 26, horticulture was the focus as the students toured university greenhouses and took in demonstrations of landscaping, fruit production, floral design and biotechnology.

Wednesday, July 27, found the kids experiencing animal science, including sessions in dairy, animal and poultry science. Visitors looked inside the four chambers of a cow's stomach, and worked with ultrasound technology as well as horse handling. Wednesday afternoon focused on agronomy as the students headed to Beaver Stadium to analyze turfgrass. The day ended with a look at forest products.

Thursday, July 28, opened with a session on urban forestry and then the group headed out to a nearby state park for an entomology field trip, where the kids captured, preserved and classified insects. A visit to the university's mushroom research facility ended the day.

Friday, July 29, concluded the week with a discussion group, an awards lunch and a talk on agricultural literacy by Eddie Moore, a professor of agricultural and extension education at Michigan State University.

Blannie Bowen summed up the aim of the workshop: "When kids think of science they usually see the space shuttle or chemistry. With this workshop, we just want to say 'Hey, take a look at this.'"

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