## Ag Ambassadors Entice Student Enrollment

NEWARK, Del.—Who could get a bunch of city kids interested in majoring in agriculture?

Jean Lonie could, and does, year after year. Every autumn this senior in the University of Delaware's College of Agricultural Sciences returns to "Career Day," at her alma mater, W.B. Saul High School, in the Roxborough section of northwest Philadelphia.

Sporting her trademark sunny smile and an exuberant attitude to match, Lonie gracefully fields the

inevitable jokes about how difficult it must be to raise cows in her family's city backyard. Then, Lonie directs the conversation toward the serious stuff of college and career plans. She explains about the diverse career opportunities available in agriculture opportunities that extend far beyond the farm field.

It's all in a day's work for this walking, talking billboard, better known as an Ag Ambassador. Lonie and 24 other undergradu-

ates appointed as Ag Ambassadors represent the College of Agricultural Sciences at a host of official receptions and events on the university campus, in the community, in the Governor's Office and Legislative Hall, and at high schools throughout the region.

They volunteer their time for such large-scale efforts as Preview Days, the university-wide open house held each summer for high school students. And they also will show up, sometimes on just an hour's notice, to give a prospective student and his or her family an informal tour of the college.

"It's a real honor for a student to be selected as an Ag Ambassador," says Karen Aniunas, assistant dean for student services. "We are very particular in whom we appoint because these students get involved in high-level advocacy work. For example, Ag Ambassadors have accompanied the dean to sessions with the college's visiting board and to meetings with the governor of Delaware."

Yet the most important connections the Ag Ambassador make are to the high school students who seek them out, at career fairs and campus tours, with a multitude of questions and concerns.

"The high school students see us their peers and feel comfortable talking with us," says Ag Ambassador Eric Benson, a senior majoring in agricultural engineering. "They ask us about college clubs and what life is like in the dorms, as well as about our majors and personal career goals.

"The message that I deliver as an Ag Ambassador is one that I really believe in," adds Benson. "The college is like on big family; we look out for each other. It's a great place to be."

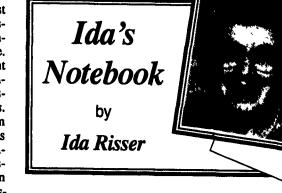
Sophomore plant science major

Andy Haynes is a recent addition to the Ag Ambassadors, appointed last spring.

"The College of Agricultural Sciences has done a lot of me," notes Haynes, a recipient of an academic scholarship. "I'm glad I can give something back to the college as an Ag Ambassador."

Ag Ambassador Lonie is sche-

duled to visit her old high school Oct. 30. And given Lonie's winning ways with students, the dean's office better brace itself for an avalanche of mail come November. Last year, after Lonie made her career day presentation, about 25 students from W.B. Saul High School wrote, seeking further information about the college.



My husband and I have been grandparents for 15 years. However, it is only in the last few years that we have had the opportunity to see any of our 13 grandchildren grow up. You see, one was born in California, one in Tennessee, one in Texas and so on all over the country.

It is quite interesting to watch the three, who live on our dairy farm, change from month to month. Of course, the baby grows the fastest but the others change too.

The almost two-year-old is the one to watch as he gets into everything. His little legs will take him places that he should not go. The other day he ran way down into a field where his grandfather was picking up black walnuts. We had to hunt him as he was too far away to hear us calling him. Last week this little red-headed boy walked with me to some neighbors to

deliver cherry tomatoes. Of course, grandmother had to show off the cute little fellow. He is really crazy about tractors and even thinks the sound of trucks on the highway is the sound of a tractor.

His older brother goes to preschool and can be quite a helper in my garden. He will dig the potates, he will pick the beans, and he will gather the pumpkins. So, the other evening I took him along fishing in the Conestoga River behind the barn. We were lucky and caught 10 fish in one hour. The catfish was the biggest of our catch. We put the three smallest back in the water to grow bigger.

Another experience for we grandparents is to have them come for a meal. I wanted them to taste the fist and when I served French fries with the fish they emptied the dish quickly. I like to cook for hungry people.

## HAP EN NGS

## Adams County 4-H Horse Club

Adams County 4-H Horse Club members will participate at the state 4-H Horse show. The show will be held at the Farm Show Complex Oct. 27-29. Visitors are welcome at the show.

The following members will participate in the production show:

 Shannon Brady, Hanover, in half Arabian colt or gelding of this year.

•Cassie Frederick, Littlestown, in hunter type horse yearling gelding.
•James Mackey, Aspers, in

hunter type pony colt or gelding of this year.
•Teresa Scamack, Gettysburg, in hunter type pony filly of this year.

The following members will participate in the performance show: Melissa Hawkins, Gettysburg, in hunter seat equitation senior division, hunter horses under saddle, and hunter hack horses; Emily Schrum, Carroll Valley, in hunter seat equitation junior division; Sarah Sokolovich, New Oxford, in hunter seat equitation senior division and hunter horses under saddle; and Jeremiah Wooters, New Oxford, in raised box keyhole pony class.

For more information about 4-H programs in Adams County, contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office at (717) 334-6271 or (717) 624-4525.

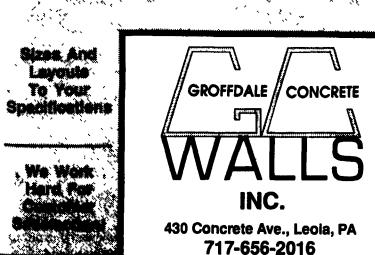
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